Hamas leader's health deteriorates

 $\text{UCCUPIED 3ERUSALEM}(R) \leftarrow \text{The health of the paleo leader of}$ the Islantic Resistance Movement Hamas has deteriorated to the point where his life is in danger, his lawyer said on Monday. Abdul Malek Al Dahansheh, who visited Ahmad Yassur at a pall near the brach town of Netanya on Friday, said doctors postponed a vital operation on the ailing eletic because he was too weak to stand it. "For two nouths he was in the prison hospital waiting for an operation on his digestive system. But on February 8th, he returned to his cell became. loctors decided not to perform the operation. Mr. Hahanish, h 1644. Reuters. "It is not an exaggeration to say his life is under threat." (1) said. A spokesman for the Israeli prisons authority and Sheikh Yaron had spent some weeks in a prison hospital for what he called a forming checkup. "The is in the same condition as before and there is no deterioration.1 the spokesman said. Sheikh Yassin, the 58-year-old hunder of Hautas, is serving a 15-year pattern for ordering the killing of suspected Palestinian collaborators with Israel

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AMMAN TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1994, RAMADAN 12, 1414

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Qadhafi congratulates King Hussein

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AMMAN (Petra) - His Majesty King Hussein Monday evening received a telephone call from Libyan leader Muammar Oadhafi who congratulated him on the signing of the Yemem reform and reconciliation agreement in Amman Sunday. Colonel Oadhafi voiced appreciation of the King's role and efforts exerted to hring the Yemeni feuding parties to sign the agreement.

Kuwait says it seeks *fugitives*

KUWAIT (AP) — Diplomatic missions have been ordered sot to renew the passports of three Kuwaiti men, including two royal princes, implicated is a multi-billion-dollar investmeta scandal, the newspaper Al Quous reported Monday. The independent daily said missions abroad have been instructed to inform the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry if they hear from any of the three men, Al Qabas provided no attribution for the report, Fuad Jaffar, Sheikh Khaled Nasser Al Sabah and Sheikh Fahad Mohammad Al Sabah, all former officials of the Londonbased Kuwait Investment Office, vanished after their indictment last year. They have been charged with embezzling public money leading to the collapse of a \$4 billion investment empire in Spain. Kuwait bas, sought the help of the interpol to arrest them.;

Yemeni captors free three Chinese

SANAA (AP) - Three Chinese road-building experts kidnapped more than a week igo by Yemeni tribesmen were released Monday, diplomatic sources said. The sources spoke on condition they not be named, said the three men were unharmed but declined ro immediately give more detail. The abduction was the latest in a long series of hostage-taking of foreign workers in Yemen by tribes who want to pressure the authorities to address their. prievances. The tribe who took the three Chinese men in broad daylight from the Mareb-Khowlan highway on Feb. 12 were said to be demanding construction of a road through their area.

Frenchman murdered in Algiers

PARIS (R) - Unknown assailants killed a French shopkeeper in central Algiers on Monday, the Algerian state news agency APS said APS. monitored in Paris, said Joaquin Grau, 52, was attacked in his bookshop by "terrorists" the term used by Algerian authorities for Muslim fundamentalists — and died in hospital. French radio said Grau was shot several times. His death took to 29 the number of foreigners killed in Algeria's political violence since last September, six of them French (see page 2).

Kuwait: No problem for agency in Tunis

TUNIS (R) - The Tunis office of Kuwait's news agency **KUNA** is functioning normally after the resolution of its problems with authorities. the Kuwait embassy said on Monday, "KUNA's office is operating normally. There was a misunderstanding which we have amicably resolved with the help of Tunisian authorities. Walid Al Khubeizy. Kuwait's charge d'affaires in Tunis. told Reuters. "Reports about a clo-Rure of KUNA's office were exaggerated." he added. KUNA Paris bureau chief suid last Friday Tunisia had ordeted the KUNA correspondent in Topis to stop working and cut off his telephones, apparently because he quoted a Muslim fundamentalist leader. Authorities had not officially asked the office to shut. Tunisix last week ordered the expulsion of the British Broadcasting Corporation's correspondent, accusing him of giving too much publicity tu the Views of Muslim militants.

Clinton says Serbs heeded NATO call, but warns anew

Europeans want to end sieges throughout Bosnia

WASHINGTON (Agencies) - U.S. President Bill Clinton said Munday that Bosnian Serhs were in "effective compliance" with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) demand to withdraw their heavy weapons from around Sarajevo hut said any violation would bring a "certain and swift" tesponse from the west.

Mr. Clinton also promised the United States will help in efforts to lurge a "lasting and workable peace" in Bosnia but warned that "any shelling uf Sarajevo... will bring a certain and swift response. "We intend to remain viei-

lant. The NATO decision stands," Mr. Clinton said. He said that while the Serhs were in effective compliance" with the NATO ultimatum to withdraw their artillery from Sarajevo or put the guns under NATO control, the United States and its allies were concerned that Serb weapons might be transferred from Sarajevo to other areas of Bosnia. He said previous NATO resolutions give the U.N.

CAIRO (Agencies) - Israel

and the Palestine Liberation

Organisation (PLO) started

more talks in Cairo on Monday

to complete a detailed agree-

ment on Palestinian self-rule

which they have been working

deal oo the transfer of civilian

authority from Israel to the

PLO in the Gaza Strip and the

West Bank town of Jericho was

at hand and could be sealed

On Security arrangements

- a more thorny issue - both

sides were due to draw up final

drafts on all the details that

would follow Israeli withdraw-

al from the two self-rule areas.

Shaath said on Monday the

talks in Cairo should bring

agreement on how big a

Palestinian police force should

be and what weapons it should

PLO sources said Israel was

talking about a 6,000-strong

air, sea and land force while

the Palestinians demand

Israel insists Palestinian

police must not carry mortars,

rocket-propelled grenades.

mortars or Katyusha rockets

and that their weapons must be

confined to Kalasbnikovs, pis-

Chief PLO negotiator Nabil

Palestinian sources said a

on since last October.

to order NATO bombings if peacekeepers are under attack. Mr. Clinton warned that any shelling of Sarajevo or

the appearance of any heavy weapons within the exclusion zune will hring a certain and swift response from the U.S. and NATO." Speaking to reporters in a

hastily arranged news conference at the White Huuse hriefing room. Mr. Clinton tried to capitalise on his first limited foreign policy success in the troubled region. He com-mended U.S. troops, NATO allies, the U.N. and Russia. which urged the Serbs to heed the ultimatum. Mr. Clinton made the remarks after meeting with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Defence Secretary William Perry and National Security Adviser Tony Lake.

In other Bosnia-related developments: - U.N. peacekeepers were

tols and batons at the first

The enegotiators were also

expected to set a timetable for

the Israeli withdrawal from

Gaza and Jericho, dismantling

its military installations and the

omous area

taking control of the last Serh guns around Sarajevo as a growing chorus of voices called for NATO's air strike ultimatum aimed at ending shelling of ground commandet authority the besieged Bosnian capital to

PLO, Israel resume

self-rule negotiations

be used in the rest of Busnia, - European governments. eapitalising un their first success in the Bosnia conflict after two years of impotence, sought to extend NATO's ultimatune to relieve sieges elsewhere in Bosnia and advance peace

"We may have the beginning of the end of this nightmare, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd told reporters during talks in Paris with French leaders.

Italian Defence Minister Fabiu Fahbri tuld Reuters; The success of the firm line has taught us not to ahandon this fundamental chuice. The Sarajevo formula, which was also helped by Russia's conttibutiun, must he extended to all of Bosnia. - France urged the interna-

tional community to seize the opportunity created by the NATO ultimatum to press for a wider peace in Busnia. President Francois Mitterrand was expected to call for a new U.N. Security Council dehate. General Sir Michael

Rose, commander of U.N. forces in Bosnia, said there was new hope in the eyes of the republie's war-weary people after the Serh gunners pulled back. A U.N. officer said Gen. Rose wanted to use the same strategy elsewhere to consolidate the peace.

- The commander of U.N. troops in former Yugoslavia. General Jean Cot, said he wanted to use the demilitarisation in Sarajevo as a model and extend it to other Bosnia trituble spots.

- Turkey approved of the delay in air strikes in Bosnia but said NATO should show the same resolve to break Serbian sieges in other Muslim

– Bosnian Serh leader Radovan Karadzic said more than half of his army's heavy weapons had been withdrawn from Satajevo while the rest were under United Nations control.

- U.S. Admiral Mike Bourda. commander uf NATO forces in southern Europe, said he could still mount strikes if the shelling of Satujevo resumed or the Serbs tried to

(Continued on page 5)

Army clash mars Yemen agreement

SANAA (Agencies) - Five people reportedly were killed in a clash Monday between northern and wathern Yemeni forces, threatening to undermine a day old reconciliation accord between their twit lead-

The cabinet, meeting in

emergency session, assigned

the minister of defence and the

army chief of staff to take

urgent measures to stop the

clash "and swiftly investigate

and punish those who triggered

In a separate statement, the

Defence Ministry said the

clashes "almost killed the joy

of the Yemeni nation" follow-

ciliation pact.

deployment of the Palestinian police in the future auton-It was the first fatal clash Israel and the PLO missed between the northern and the deadline for Israel to start southern armies since a leadership crisis broke out six pulling out of the Gaza Strip and Jericbo more than two months ago that paralysed govmonths ago. The Palestinians ernment and contributed to a

now say they hope to have a determention of law and urder. deal by the eod of Ramadan. Oil industry sources in Sanaa Dr. Shaath said the negosaid the clash occurred in tiators also had to go into Abyan, 320 kilometres south further details on security of the Yemeni capital. Hours zones around the Jewish settleafter the reports surfaced, it ments in the Gaza Strip, where was unclear if the fighting was Israeli forces will retain some continuing.

powers. A separate group, led by Jamid Al Tarifi for the PLO and Gadi Zohar for Israel, is talking about the transfer of civilian authority to the Palestinians, especially the allocation of radio and television frequencies and archaeological

Dr. Sbaath's counterpart on the Israeb side is Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahak. Another set of negotiators

(Continued on page 5)

northern troops of the Amalqa Brigade besieged government offices in Abyan after reports the governor of the province. northerner, had been replaced by a southerner.

They said South Yemeni troops, backed by tanks. clashed with this group, leaving five dead. They did not know to which side the casualties belonged.

A later statement issued in Aden by Defence Minister Haithem Oassem, a southerner, said the clashes occurred when troops of the Amalga Brigade "provocatively deployed" and cut off troops of the southern Madra Brigade who were trying to return to barracks.

The statement expressed regret for "the spilling of innocent blood." It did not elahorate or give the number of easualties.

In Amman, officials said that despite the signing of the reconciliation and reform charter on Sunday. Yemen's two leades were still deeply di-

Among the reforms listed in the reconciliation chaner is a requirement for all army units

ing the signing of the recon-Insisting on anonymity, the (Continued on page 5) said. oil sources said about 15tt Syria: No secret talks with Israel

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria said on Monday it had rejected separate Israeli proposals 10 hold secret peace talks and to upgrade the Washington peace negotiations now held at ambassadorial level.

Officials also accused Israel of trying to drive a wedge between Syria and Lebanon and to coax Beirut into a separare peace deal, but added that the attempt had failed.

"Israel has rudely asked Syria to enter into clandestine negotiations (at) one time and upgrading the level of negotiations at another." Interior Ministet Mohammad Hatba told a conference in Damascus.

He is the first Syrian minisler to state publicly that Israel is seeking secret talks with Damascus. Junior officials have previously denounced Israel fot making the demand.

Earlier, a government official said Israel was trying to sabotage Sytian-Lebanese relations.

"Israel tried to drag Lebanon into signing a separate unjust deal and used threats to

do so. It also tried to sahotage the strong Syrian-Lebanese ties but rhe attempt was doomed to failure," the official He said Syrian President

Hafez Al Ássad and his Lebanese counterpart Elias Hrawi had taken a unified stand at a meeting on Sunday on the peace talks and on concern about a possible Israeli strike against guerrillas in South Lebanon.

Syria and Israel, who have held II rounds of talks during the last two years without tangible progress, resumed negotiations in Washington on Jan. 24 aftet a four-month

The resumption followed a meeting between Mt. Assad and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Geneva on Jan. 24 in which Mr. Assad said he was ready to have normal ties with Israel as part of a comprehensive settlement of the Arah-Israeli con-

Mr. Harha told a regional conference un preventing drug trafficking that Israel had not responded positively to Mr. Assad's statement and accused it of "placing sticks in the wheel of this peace process," He described Israel's proposal for holding a referendum

on the fate of the Golan Heights as an obstacle to peace. "Amongst the obstacles that Israel created was the formula

of referendum as regards withdrawal from the Golan Heights as a new flimsy pretext to shirk the exigencies of peace," Mr. Harba said. Israel's demand for secret

talks was aimed at avoiding U.S. intervention to push the process forward, Mr. Harha

"(The call aims at) giving no chance for the co-sponsors ... especially the United States which is exerting substantial efforts to achieve peace in this region." he said.

Mr. Harba, whose country is under pressure from the United States to cuth drug trafficking, expressed determination to stamp out the illicit

Since 1976, the Syrian army bas controlled east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, one of the main hashish growing and cocaineprocessing areas in the Middle

Recently, the Syrians have publicised efforts to stamp out the trade. Last year, they escorted reporters to view the destruction of hashish fields in the Bekaa. "It is imperarive to put an

end to the illieit growing of narcotic plants." Mr. Harba told the meeting. Organised by the U.N. drug-control programme in Damascus.

Mr. Harba said Syria would use the death penalty and other stern measures to deal with drug dealers, but he conceded that drug-control measures by Syria and other countries wotldwide have had limited effectiviness.

"We are not doing any injustice to anyone by admitting that the efforts exerted until now have been futile and were ineffective in uprooting this evil phenomenon." he told the



Yemeni leaders leave for home paying tribute to Jordan's role

AMMAN (J.T.) - Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh and other Yemeni leaders Monday left for home after signing a reform and reconciliation agreement in Amman Sunday.

Mr. Saleh was seen off at the airport by His Majesty King Hussein. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali. Upper House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi. Lower House Speaker Taher Al Massi. Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's political advisor Marwan Al Oassem. the King's advisor Khalid Al Karaki, and other senior offi-

Mr. Saleh was accompanied by Yemeni Presidential Council member Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, head of the Yemeni Al Islah Islamic Party Abdullah Al Ahmar and officials.

In a pre-departure statement. President Saleh commended efforts exerted by Jordan and other Arah and forcign countries to end the Yemeni dispute and which culminated in the signing of the reconciliation and reform agree-

The agreement ends a sixmonth political crisis and brings about reforms to steer

the course of 44-month old united Yemen.

While in Jordan, Mr. Saleh said, the Yemeni officials held talks with Jordanian officials on bilateral telations and issues of concern to Jordan and Ye-"We had consultations on

bilateral issues of concern to Yemen and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan as well as issues of concern to our Arab and Islamic nations," he said. "If at the present we have overcome the challenges of the Yemeni crisis, we have ahead

lenges that we have to withstand seriously and sincerely." he added. He said the only way for Arabs and Muslims to succeed in overcoming problems facing

of us as Arahs greater chal-

them as to end rifts among them and give priority to higher national interests. All these issues, he said. were on focus in the Jordanian-

Yemeni talks and added that he was looking forward to discuss these issues with other Arah countries. The Yemeni president

reiterated his thanks for King Hussein and the Jordanian government for their efforts to close the gaps between Yemeni leaders and for the hospitality they were accorded in AmVice-President Beidh was

seen off at the airport by Prime Minister and senior officials. Following his departure, Mr. Beidh sent a cable to King Hussein thanking him tor the hospitality accorded to him and to the Yemeni leadership. and voicing appreciation for the King's efforts to end the

political crisis in Yemen. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan described the signing of the reconciliation and reform agreement in Amman as a historic

Mr. Hassan said the agreement was a cause of joy for the Jordanian leadership and people and for the Arab Nation as a whole.

He said the event affirms that Amman will always remain in the lead of Arab countries calling for unifying Arah tanks and mending fences.

The meeting, he said, reflects the confidence King Hus-

sein enjoys in Yemen. Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousef Ben Alawi said Monday that his country considers the signing of the Yemeni agreement as a blessed step and expressed hope that the Yemenis will

(Continued on page 5)

Rabin and Gonzalez discuss

peace talks MADRID (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his Spanish counterpart Felipe Gonzalez on Monday discussed aspects of the proposed ported. Israeli withdrawal from the Protestors waving Israeli occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, officials

Mr. Rabin, who arrived in demanding that Israel hold on Madrid for a two-day visit, met Mr. Gonzalez for nearly two hours which were devoted entirely to the Middle East peace

process. The Israeli leader outlined the problems involved in setting up a civilian administration in the occupied territories. These include managing water, gas and electricity supplies. building a banking system and

setting up a police force. Spain, which hosted the historic 1991 peace conference. bas offered to help train a new force and to supply vehicles and communications equip-

Talks between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel ate being held in Cairo where Palestinian sources said a deal on the transfer of civilian authority from Israel to the PLO in the Gaza Strip and Jericbo was at hand and could be sealed soon.

Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Rabin were due to dine together on Monday night and to meet again on Tuesday for talks followed by a juint press conference. They are expected to discuss bilateral commetcial relations and Israel's links with the European Union (EU).

West Bank settlers block main roads

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) - Dozens of sertlers blocked main roads with burning tyres and rocks in the occupied West Bank on Monday to prevent Palestinians from reaching their workplaces in Israel, correspondents re-

flags demonstrated for two huurs at crossroads, halting traffic from davbreak. The settlers shouted slogans

ro the occupied territories. "If Israelis cannot move about safely we will not let Arab cars use the roads," settlers' spokesman Shai Bazak said. Troops did not intervene and the demonstrators dis-

persed peacefully. The protests followed the killing of an Israeli woman near the West Bank settlement of Ariel on Friday night. And a Palestinian stabbed a Jewish carpenter in the abdomen on Sunday, lightly wounding the 39-year-uld near Rumle in central Israel.

The killing of the women outraged Israelis and led Prime Minister Yitzhak Rahin to call a meeting of his defence cabinet on Sunday to review security.

Izzedin Al Qassam, the armed wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement Humus, claimed responsibility for the attack and military officials said the army was hunting Hamas activists.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal announced Sunday that para-military civil guard posts would open soon in the main settlements.

Foreign Minister Shimon

Peres said reinforcements would be deployed in the uccupied territories, but he ruled out a tightening of restrictions imposed since last March to prevent Palestinians from enrering Israel.

Israeli troops shot and wounded five Palestinians during clashes on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank on Sunday.

Hamas' warning

Hamas warned Arab Citizens of Israel Monday to keep our of Israel's army of occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A leaflet from the group's psychological warfare depart ment said Israel was replacing units of Jewish soldiers in Gaza with Druze and bedouin from inside Israel. The Israeli government in a

racist way has been cutting back the number of soldiers of Jewish origin and strengthening the presence of Druze and bedouin to cut the number of Jewish deaths." it added. We shall strike everyone riding in an Israeli patrol and

we will not distinguish between the Jew or the Druze or the bedouin... we advise the Druze and bedouin to leave the army which has killed the sons of your people."

The group said Palestinian "collaborators" were being pressed to serve in the Israeli armv.

The military had no immediate comment.

Hamas resumed killing suspected "collaborators" last month after a two-month amnesty. It killed an Israeli agent in a well-organised ambush last week.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Group regrets Indonesian visit to Israel

JAKARTA (AFP) — An Indonesian Muslim youth organisa-

tion has expressed deep regret over a visit by four Indonesian

journalists to Israel. The Mohammadiyah Youth Movement

said in a statement obtained Monday that it "deeply regrets"

the visit of senior journalists to Israel, with which Indonesia

does not have diplomatic relations. It described the visit was

"a political victory for Israel" and said Indonesian public

figures should not accept such invitations. Indonesian Foreign

Minister Ali Alatas said last week that the government had not

approved the visit and pointed out that "our immigration rules

clearly forbid people from travelling there." Four journalists — from the Republika and Media Indonesia dailies, and

Indonesian Business Weekly and Esksekutif magazine - left

Jakarta on Feb. 8 for Cairo and then went on to Tel Aviv.

They were officially invited by the Israeli chamber of

commerce. But a media Indonesia spokesman said the

journalists had been in the hands of Israeli foreign ministry

officials since their arrival. Indonesia, the world's most

populous Muslim nation, is a staunch supporter of the Palestinians and the Arabs. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak

Rahin made a brief stop in Jakarta in October and held talks

with President Suharto in the latter's capacity as chairman of

the Non-Aligned Movement to brief him on developments in the Middle East peace process. Indonesia said afterwards it was not considering establishing diplomatic ties with Israel.

Jewish agency appoints Dinitz replacement

TEL AVIV (AP) - The Quasi-governmental Jewish Agency

appointed a temporary chairman Sunday to replace Simcha

Dinitz who bas been charged with fraud. The agency, which

processes immigrants and coordinates fundraising for Israel,

named Israeli-born Yehiel Leket, 52, as Mr. Dinitz's replace-

ment until elections in June, Mr. Leket, like Mr. Dinitz,

belongs to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party. A former parliament member, Mr. Lekel has built his career in

the agency. He headed its youth immigrant department, and

previously chaired the settlement division of the World Zionist

Organisation, an agency subsidiary for overseas Jewry. His

appointment was approved by the agency's board of governors

in consultation with Mr. Rabin. The agency's approximately

\$500 million annual budget is raised mostly from Jewish

communities abroad. The organisation was founded as the

governing body of the Jewish state in the making during

British rule in mandatory Palestine. Since Israel achieved

statehood in 1948, the agency has been a fundraising arm

helping also in settlement building and absorbing immigrants,

Mr. Dinitz, a former Israeli ambassador to Washington, was

charged on Feb. 14 of spending \$22,000 on a company credit

card, according to Israeli media reports. He announced the same day he was taking a leave of absence pending trial.

NICOSIA (R) — Iran and Pakistan hegan joint naval

exercises Sunday which will continue for the next two weeks,

the Iranian newspaper Kayhan said. In a report carried by the

Iranian news agency IRNA, the newspaper quoted an Iranian

armed forces official as saying the joint naval manouevres were launched near Karachi, Pakistan's main seaport, IRNA

said the newspaper added the manouevres were important

because Iran's navy 'would get a chance to put its capabilities

in various fields on display." It did not mention what type of

exercises they would carry out. Both countries have sub-

Two children killed by Egyptian shell blast

CAIRO (AP) - Two children were killed when a shell,

believed left from a past war with Israel, blew up in the

northern Sinai, the state-run Middle East News Agency

(MENA) reported Monday. MENA gave no details on how

the children found the shell or what they were doing with it

when it detonated late Sunday. It quoted an unnamed security

source as saying the area had been a hattlefield. The incident

occurred near the town of Bir Al Abd, which is about 80

kilometres east of Port Said, MENA said. There have been a

number of similar incidents in old war zones in the Sinai and

along the Suez Canal. Most of the victims are children playing

Iran, Pakistan start navy exercises

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Iraq seeks return of its planes from Iran

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian newspaper said on Monday that Iraq sought to persuade Irun in Tehran talks last week to return planes flown there secretly before and during the 1991 Gulf war.

The English-language Tehran Times quoted informed sources as saying that "Baghdad's main objective in the current talks is to secure the speedy return of its fighter planes held in Iran."

Iraq has often urged Iran to return the planes.

It said in 1991 that a total of 148 planes — 33 civilian and 115 military - were moved to Iran. Iran said only 22 Iraqi planes landed and it would not give them back without the approval of the U.N. Security Council.

"The Iraqi regime must realise that while it continues to arm and train anti-Iranian terrorists on its soil bordering the Islamic republic, it would be childish to believe that Iran will return the planes which can easily end up in the hands of those same terrorists to be used against its citizens," the

Iran condemned iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait but remained neutral in the 1991 Gulf war when a U.S.-led multinational force drove Iraqi troops from the emirate. Iran and Iraq, regional rivals who fought a bitter war from 1980-1988, said after talks in Tehran last week that they should work to improve rela-

The talks brought together Saad Abdul Majeed Al Faisal. under-secretary at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Mr. Faisal also discussed the

fate of remaining prisoners from the Iran-Iraq war. Iran says it has documents on about 5,000 Iranian prisoners in Iraq. Baghdad denies holding any. Iran is home to Iraq's exiled Shi ite opposition movement,

the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), whose guerrillas attack targets in southern Iraq. The Iranian opposition Mujahedeen-e-Khalq group

has military camps in Iraq. "Tehran's reluctance to expand bilateral relations with Baghdad stems from the fact that Iraq simultaneously speaks from both corners of its mouth," the Tehran Times

"From one corner comes statements of reconciliation, while the other corner tries to convince the West that another Western investment in Baghdad's war machine is needed to bring Iran's Islamic revolution under control and to secure Western interests," it added.

Iran team in Geneva to refute U.N. report

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran said on Monday it had sent a judiciary delegation to Geneva to refute allegations made in a report by a U.N. investigator on human rights violations. Iran's judicial chief Ayatol-

lah Mohammad Yazdi said the allegations in the report were "lies" and a "political tool" against the Islamic republic.

**Presently, the ayatollah said, an Iranian judiciary delegation is in Geneva to spell out the facts on the issues mentioned in the report and the realities of the Islamic republic system," the official Ira-

Mr. Yazdi denied Iran was holding any prisoners "for expressing their ideas."

In a report to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, Reynaldo Galindo Pohl of El Salvador said last week there were nearly 20,000 political prisoners in Iran and freedom of expression there was constantly under attack.

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Mr. Pohl, whose 60-page report was the latest in a series he has produced for the commission criticising Iran's human rights stance since 1986. also recorded what he said were many cases of persecution of religious minorities and of women.

The report will come up for adoption by the commissionin early March.

The investigator, who has not been allowed into Iran for many months, said he based his findings on both official and unofficial accounts of events in Iran and on foreign court decisions in the cases of murders of Iranian exiles.

The report noted rejection by Iran of most of the charges recorded by Mr. Pohl, and assertions by Tehran that he had little knowledge of Islamic

"Touching on Iran's alleged involvement in the assassination of its opposition forces abroad, Yazdi said that the global arrogance has always made efforts to attribute the

revolutionary movements and popular uprisings in other countries to the Islamic Re-

public of Iran," IRNA added. Ayatollah Yazdi said Iran did not issue Mr. Pohl with a visa due to his "insincerity and

his infringing of his duties."
He said Iran has repeatedly said it was willing to receive delegates of international orgamisations "who intend to fulfill their tasks honestly."

Iran on Sunday said it was holding a total of 89,500 prisoners and all were well-

Assadollah Lajevardi, head prisons, said five per cent of the prisoners were women, 53 per cent drug addicts or traffickers and the rest convicted of other crimes. He said prisoners were

allowed weekly visits by their families and religious minority inmates were allowed access to their clergymen. Ayatollah Yazdi defended

the current laws in Iran, including the death penalty, saying "the punishment already exists in most coun-

However, he said Iran was planning to overhaul its judiciary and he expected parliament to debate the issue short-

The U.N. report also pressed the authorities to end harassment of the media and allow the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to return to Iran.

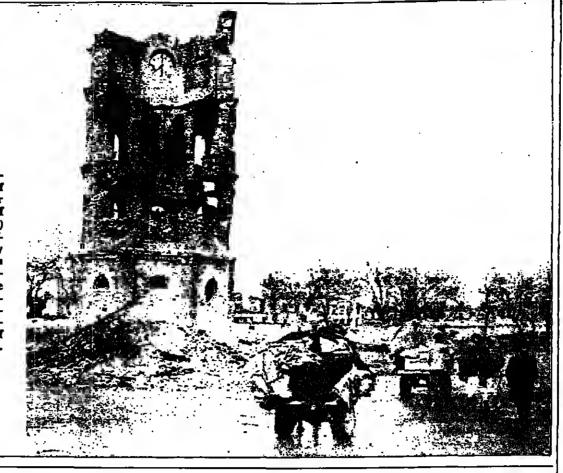
The authorities expelled ICRC representatives in March 1992, accusing them of overstepping their mandate.

Ayatollah Yazdi invited representatives of international organisations to visit Iran to investigate the government's human rights record, but ruled out any further visits by Mr.

The foreign ministry also rejected the U.N. report on Saturday, calling it "biased, politically-motivated and influenced by the enemies of the Islamic republic."

Homeless in Kabul

A trickle of homeless civilians passes by the ruins of the bistorie clock-tower built during the reign of King Nadir Shah (1929-33) on Monday, three days af-ter the end of a four-day official ceasefire between forces of President Burhanuddin Rabbani and Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hik-matyar. Thousands of peo-ple were killed and wounded in the latest bout of battles which began on Jan. 1 (AFP photo)



60-year-old woman gives birth in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — A 60-year-old European woman who lied about her age to get an implant of donated eggs has delivered a healthy girl at an Israeli hospital, her doctor said Monday.

The woman, who had already passed menopause and could not conceive naturally. became one of the oldest on record to give hirth. Her hushand is 68,

The woman demanded that her identity be kept secret. The Israeli doctor, Dr. Shlo-

mo Mashiach, said he might not have carried out the procedure if he had known his patient's real age. "One has to get an age limit. I think age 50 is enough." Dr. Mashiach told the Associated Press.
The case of a 50-year-old

British woman who delivered twins in international ethics debate and prompted some countries to consider legislation that would restrict such

Dr. Mashiach said ne treated 250 older women from Israel and abroad in his egg donation programme last year. He said many of the foreigners were Jews who wanted to be sure the donor was Jewish.

The European woman, an observant Jew, told Dr. Mashiach she was 48. Her real age was discovered two weeks ago when she checked into Maayanei Hayeshua hospital in the Tel Aviv suburb of Enei Brak for delivery and a clerk checked her passport, said Dr. Moshe Rothschild, director of

Dr. Maschiach said his patient has come to Israel for treatment after several attempts at test tube fertilisation in Europe had failed and doctors began turning her away hecause of age.

the hospital,

In Israel, she became pregnant in the first round of treatment, heing implanted with donated eggs fertilised by her husband's sperm. The pregnancy, her first, was normal. In the 38th week, her blood pressure rose slightly and Dr. Mashiach said he decided to perform a caesarian section to avoid risks.

The baby was healthy and weighed 2.8 kilogrammes. The woman checked out of the hospital three days later, said Dr. Mashiach, president of the Israeli Association of gynecologists and obstetricians.

He said his patient was the oldest woman he knew of to have given birth.

Violence sweeps Algeria as gas stations strike

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Vio-lence hlamed on a two-yearold insurgency left 30 more reported dead, and traffic jams plagued the capital Sunday as gas station operators prepared

Security forces said they killed 21 armed militants across Algeria last week, including six in the western area of Mascara.

The forces said among seven civilians killed was a 94-yearold woman was killed in ber home west of Algiers on Friday. They confirmed news reports that a 50-year-old woman and her 25-year-old daughter were slain Wednesday night in the Algiers neighbourhood of

Six members of a "terrorist group" with sawed-off bunting rifles killed the two in front of the father, then made off with jewelry and money, the forces

Pensioner Boudjar Keltoum, was killed at ber bome near Sidi Bel Abbes in west Algeria by unknown attackers, officials Mohammad Tabar, 53, a

veteran of the war of independence from France and vice president of a religious association, was killed Wednesday evening in Setif, eastern Algeria, the security forces said.

In a separate report security officials said that 11 armed

Wednesday in different clashes with government forces.

Four were killed in Sidi-

fundamentalists were killed

Kada, near the western region of Mascara and three in Boudouaou, to the east of Algiers. Another two were killed in the east, at M'sila and Constantine, they added.

Thirty-six activists were rent parts of the country, charged mainly with assisting armed groups, arrested the same day in diffe-

A total of 62 armed fundamentalists have been killed by government forces since the start of February, according to an unofficial tally, while Islamic groups are alleged to have killed 14 security force people and 12 civilians.

Several public buildings were set on fire on Wednesday in Tefessour, in the western region of Sidi Bel Abbes,

according to security sources.
On the same day, nine buses belonging to a public company were set on fire in Relizane by armed men, while a college was sacked in 'Ain Serroun, near Chlef, they said.

Algerian press reported a magistrate and a policeman were also killed, the first in an apartment building in the western port of Oran, the second in

with found objects of workers handling scrap metal. The Sinai was the theatre for battles with Israel in the 1967 and 1973

Palestinian hurt in fight with Egyptians NICOSIA (R) - A Palestinian student was stabbed in the chest in the Cypriot capital Nicosia during a dispute over girls between four Palestinians and five Egyptians, police said on Monday. Akram Mohammad, 26. a Jordanian passport holder, was being treated for a minor stab wound in a Nicosia

hospital after the Saturday night incident, they added. Lebanon invites tenders for Beirut rebuilding BEIRUT (R) - Lebanon invited on Monday contractors to offer tenders for a \$550 million plan to rehuild the infrastructure of Beirut's war-ravaged centre. The rehabilitation plan is the first practical step in a project to rehuild the capital's downtown area. The Council of Development and Reconstruction (CDR) made the announcement in an advertisement in Beirut newspapers in which it said the contractors, who

must be Lebanese, should restore roads, sewerage, water pipes, the electricity grid and the telephone networks. The CDR said tenders should be offered between Feh. 28 and May 13. Sources at Solidere, the \$1.82 billion private company that will rebuild the centre, said work on the infrastructure would start later this year at a cost of \$550 million. It was expected to be finished in 1999, they said. The sources said Solidere would initially pay for the infrastructure hut it expected the government to pay it back, either with cash or property. Under the law that set up Solidere, the government should rehabilitate the infrastructure while the company would rebuild the area-

Arafat, Rabin among peace prize candidates The Nobel Foundation has angel Martinez and several Vaciav Havel has been nominnot announced the value of the

OSLO (AP) — The count-down to the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize has started. This year the awards committee in Oslo received 117 nominations.

"There were many nominations towards the end, and in all the total was close to last vear's 120 nominations," Arne Storheim, of the Nobel Institute, said.

The nominations can be divided into three categories: 67 individuals, 21 nominations of two or three individuals and 29 organisations.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee does not reveal the names of candidates, but those making the nominations often announce their choice. Among known nominees are Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, who last September signed a historic peace accord in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat were nominated hy European Council President Miguel

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 13, Aqaba 20, Humidity readings: Amman 66 per cent. Aqaba 52 per

German parliamentarians. The six-member committee

meets Tuesday for its first closed session, starting the process leading to the announcement in mid-October. The post-mark deadline for nominations was Feb. 1. Sbortly before his death Jan.

13, Norway's late Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst, who brokered the Israel-PLO peace accord, was nominated by German Parliamentarian Johannes Gerster of the Christian Democrats.

Mr. Holst can be ruled out since the statutes of the Nobel committee state that the peace prize cannot be awarded posthumously. However, a shared Arafat-Rabin prize would reflect Mr. Holst's contribution. Brazilian President Itamar

Franco nominated sociologist Herbert de Souza for his efforts among Brazil's poor. the Norwegian news agency NTB said.

ZAROA:

Czech Republic President

995710

ated for several years in a row. Norwegian legislators nominated writer and human rights campaigner Adam De-maqi, 58, leader of the human

rights council in Kosovo, the troubled southern Serbian province with a predominant Albanian ethnic population. Maha Ghosanada, a Buddhist monk who campaigned for peace during Camhodia's civil

war was nominated by U.S. Senator Clairborne Pell. Mr. Pell bad nominated the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, who won the 1989 peace prize.

Among the organisations known to be nominated are the international Red Cross, the Scouting Movement and the Salvation Army.

The U.S. Quaker movement, Friends Service Committee, nominated Thai activist Sulak Sivaraksa, who for more than 30 years has spoken out for democracy and nonvio-

Jordan Electricity Authority ... 815615

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HOSPITALS

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de Klerk and African National Congress President Nelson The peace prize is always presented in Oslo on Dec. 10. the anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, a Swede who invented dynamite and en-

1994 prize. Last year it was

worth 6.7 million Swedish Kro-

nor (\$839,000) when it went to

South African President F.W.

dowed the prize in his 1895 The Nobel prizes in literature, economics, physics, chemistry and physiology or medicine are awarded on the same day in Stockholm, Sweden.

Peace prize nominations are accepted mainly from members of national legislatures. some university professors, awards committee members, former laureates and a few organisations. The awards committee

members are appointed by the Norwegiao parliament.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR Other Flights (TermInal 2)

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> DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

> Amsterdam, New York [RJ] Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ) 11:00 11:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ) 20:00 . 20:30 .

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..... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg. 260 / 200

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JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Le Chatcau Des Oliviers
19:00 News in French
19:15
Le Monde Fantastiques Des Animaux
Le Monde Fantastiques Des Animaux 19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20-36 The End Of A Brave Man
21:38 The Respected Family
22-86 News in English
22-20 The Cape Rebel
23:15 Night Court
PRAYER TIMES
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(Sunrise) Duhi

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17:30 Maghreh CHURCHES St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swelfieh, Tel. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation Tel.

De la Selle Church Tcl. 661757

Church of the Annunciation Tel. Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543. Armentan Cathulic Church Tel. 771331. ian Orthodox Church Tel. Armeni: 77526|. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Amman International Church Tel. 652526. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tcl:

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WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of The Kingdom will be affected by a cold air from), thus clouds will build up with rain falling and winds becoming Aqaba, partly cloudy weather condi-tions will prevail, winds becoming northerly moderate and seas calm.

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Dr. Mohammad Al Zu'bi |--)

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EMERGENCIES

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AMMAN:

ment at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information depart-

.... Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ) . Dhahran (RJI Muscat, Abu Dhubi (RJ) 09:50 10:20 .. Doha, Bahrain i RJ) ... Frankfuri (RJ)

17:39 Chicago, Amsterdam [RJ)

Grape Fruit Green beans ····· Laranca (RJ) Lemon Jeddah (RJ) 130 / 80 Abu Dhabi, Duhai (RJ Colombo, Singapore (RJ)

Outh organic Minister Abdul Salam Al Manual Indonesci Igili Monday issued an 18-point igili Monday issued an 18-point certification to government departments concerning the implements concerning the 1994 Budget eeply regen ments concerning the implements in Indones mentation of the 1994 Budget d the visit well

nestan publication in the circular contained lesian Force guidelines on handling finantical matters.

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PRICES

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from overspending by limiting expenses to the earmarked allocations.

It also urged the department to coordinate revenue and expenditure matters with the General Budget Department. refrain from hudgetary item transfers announce tenders for projects in the first rather than the last quarter of the year. report to the finance ministry

any income received at their offices from any source, coordinate with the finance ministry and the Civil Service Commission and the Institute of Public Administration nn training employees, request permission from the Budget Department to purchase computers and provide the department with a list of various government-owned vehicles.



FORESTING A NAMESAKE: Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday plants a tree at the Queen Noor Forest on Yajouz Road during a ceremony organised by the Royal Scientific

Society tRSS). RSS employees, their families and friends took part in greening event (Petra

NMC ensembled to take to stage

suite for cello and piano by

By Jean-Claude Elias Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Following their very successful concert in Amman a few weeks ago, the Chamber Music Ensemble of the National Music Conservatory (NMC) -- Noor Al Hussein Foundation, is back of stage tonight at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) for another performance that is puranteed to be at least as... entertaining as the previous

"Armen Armenakian on ic. Ali Shawki on clarinet. Mohammad Ali Abbas on violia and viola. Ali Moussa on cello and Mohammed Othman on piano will play at the RCC at 8:30 p.m.

The quintet will present a

G.F. Telemann, in three movements, the piano solo Vallie d'Obermann by F. Liszt, trio for cello, piano and violin by J.Haydn, the first movement of Kramer's clarinet concerto. Elegie by Gabriel Fauri (seldom played in Jordan), the first movement

of a flute concerto by W.A.

Mozart, and as the finale. quite appropriately, two Hungarian dances by J.

The NMC ensemble has already demonstrated its musical qualities that put forward not only their virtuosity and technique, but also their musicality. Their excellent in-

was a true masterpiece.

The five Iraqi musicians all are staff members of the NMC and explained to the Jordan Times how hard it was for them to find a comfortable balance between teaching at the conservatory and practising for their own performances.

They also expressed the wish to see more Jordanian performers present concerts. According to concert mas-

ter Mohammad Ali Abbas ... it would at least stimulate us by creating a more comalso better serve Jordan...

The five musicians hope to see full size symphony orehestras perform more often in Jordan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

terpretation of Bach's suite in

B minor in the last concert

Abbadi heads for talks in Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) - Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi Sunduy teft for Saudi Arabia on a several-day visit for talks with his Saudi counterpart on arrangements for the current pilgrimage season, due to start in May. Dr. Abbadi is accompanied by Director of the Ministry of Awgaf and Islamic Affairs pilgrimage Department Mohammad Obeidat and several officials.

House panel reviews sales tax

AMMAN (Petra) - The Lower House of Parliament Financial Committee Monday began discussions of the sales tax law which was referred to it by the House last week. The committee was briefed by Finance Minister Sami, Gammoh and Director General of the Customs Department Mohammad Al Jamal on the reasons for issuing and enacting the law. In its next sessions, the committee will meet with representatives of the industrial and commercial sectors to hear their views on the draft law.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

Art exhibition by several artists at the Alia Art Gallery.

* Plastic art exhibition by artist Khalil Al Kofahl at the Yarmouk University.

*Art exhibition by Iraql artists at the Royal Cultural Centre (8:30 p.m.-midnight). Computer exhibition at the Marriott Hotel.

* Photo exhibition by artist Latifa Yousef at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Exhibition of medical herbs at the Rnyal Cultural Centre.

Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight). * Book exhibition at the Jordan University for Women.

Art exhibition by Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:90 p.m.-midnight).

Wood carving exhibition by artist Samer Ousama at the French Cultural Centre. Art and photo exhibition by several Arab artists at the Balqa Art Gallery in Fuheis (Tet.

* Exhibition by Lebanese artist Hussein Madi at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the "permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists. (Tel.

Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jurdanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 8269321.

DRAMA

Drama in Arabic entitled "Hamlet Crucified Again" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00

ABC WEEKLY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

ABC weekly news highlights and the MacNeil Lehrer news hour at the American Centre 2:30

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Musical performance by the National Institute of Music band at the Royal Cultural Centre at

SEMINAR AND LECTURE

Seminar entitled "Information and Islam" with the participation of Mr. Ahmad Al Anani and Mr. Ziyad Abu Ghanimeh at the Ruyal Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.

* Lecture entitled "The Future of Yemeni Unity After The Amman Accord" by Mr. Shaker Al Johari at the Arab Club for Culture and Art in Dahiyat Al Rasheed at 8:00 p.m.

CHARITY BAZAAR

Charity bazaar at the International Exhibit Centre (3:00 p.m.-midnight).

Majali issues budget law guidelines | Jordan, U.S. sign \$15m loan agreement to buy wheat

AMMAN (J.T.) — A kian agreement for \$15 million to help Jordan purchase about DRIJERRI metric torines of wheat from private U.S. sources was signed today by Minister of inance Sami Gammah and Douglas Keene, the U.S. charge d'affaires ad interim in

The soft financial toan is being provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the provisions of Public Law 480 (P.L. 480).

It is being extended at the soft interest rate of 2 per confor the first seven years, and at 3 per cent thereafter, according to a U.S. embassy state-

Repayment witt hegin following a grace period of seven years in 24 annual instalments. The \$15 million loan will be deposited in an interestbearing account in the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), and the Speaking after the signing

being dependent on others and country's fiscal budget.

tion between Jordan and the United States in all fields. saying that the new agreement represented part of this coopciation and a move to further

movine generated will be spent on agricultural development projects mutually agreed upon the government of Jordan and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ceremony held at the finance Ministry, Mr. Gammoh called on Jordanians opposing Jordan's horrowing to instead work towards ensuring that the Kingdom becomes self-reliant. He said Jordan hopes to stop

ensure sufficient hasic consumer commodines, for its needs, noting that the loan was part of Washington's support for the For his part, Mr. Keene praised the existing coopera-

bolster bilateral relations.



Finance Minister Sami Gammoh (second from right and U.S. Charge D'Affaires ad interim Douglas Keane Monday sign a St5 million loan

agreement in help Jordan buy U.S. Wheat (Petra photo)

Engineers to elect leadership AFM decides to raise from uneven candidate blocs brokerage firm capital

By Mariam M. Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN -- A lopsided race for the leadership of the Jordan Engineering Association (JEA) has pitted a weakend liberal/left-wing bloc against a stronger traditionalist/ Islamic bloc in what proinises to be one of the most politically telling elections in several years.

Known as the green and white blocs respectively, the two groups are led by former Lower House of Parliament deputy and former association President Laith Shbeilat and traditionalist/ conservative incumbent president Husni Abu Ghaida.

The green bloc, which lost its control of the association to the whites in March 1992 after dominating the associatron: for nearly three decades; has only five candidates running on its ticket. The bloc, which has no official candidate for association president, is backing Laith Shbeilat for the post.

The increasingly powerful white bloc is fielding ninc candidates, one for each of the available posts on the executive committee.

In primary elections for the individual engineering disciplines last November the white bloc candidates defeated their green counterparts by a margin of 6 to 1, thus reducing the number of greens eligible to run in next Friday's elections.

The green bloc lost its official candidate for the association presidency. Musa Ma'aitah, when he withdrew his candidacy in favour of independent candidate Laith Shbeilat earlier this month.

The 1992 defeat of the greens for the leadership of the association was believed to be caused by the split in the leadership of the group. In 1992 the greens had 11



Laith Shbeilat

candidates for the presidency of the association. The sole white candidate, Husni Abu Ghaida won the race.

As an independent Islamist. Shbeilat a former twotime association president. declined to head the green list, which is a nationalist, pan-Arab and leftist grouping, but is considered the

would otherwise have gone to the_whites. The green list is, as it has always been, the opposition to the status quo. i.c. antipeace process, anti-IMF accords etc." a veteran green

our views and thus we are all

Many observers inside the



Husni Abu Ghaida and Muslim Brotherhood

members. "They will be exposed as a fatse opposition," said one

engineer of the Muslim Brothethood-influenced white list."
The green list supporters say that at least two of their five candidates have a "good chance" of winning. They are

running for one of the two seats allocated gineers on the JEA board, and Jalal Khreisat, who is running for the mining seat. The green candidate for the vice presidency. Jamal Duwani, as well as Ahmad

Hiyassat, who is running for the electrical seat, and Musa Tarawneh are said by members to have a good chance. The white list candidates

are Husni Abu Ghaida for president, Azam Huncidi for vice president. Bashir Gajbir and Mohammad Abu Affifi for the two civil engineering seats, Abdul Fatah Abu Khavat for the electrial seat. Ahmad Keilani, for the mechanical seat, Mohammad Abu Taba for the mining seat, Jamal Abu Salem for the chemical seat and Mohammad Akram Telt for the architecture seat.

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AMMAN (J.T.) - Brokerage firms operating at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) should each have a capital of at least JD 250,000 if they act on behalf of another party, while those which, in addition act for their own portfolios should each have a capital of JD 500,000, according to a decision by the AFM's management committee. A statement issued by the

committee following a meeting held Monday gave the brokerage firms a two-year period to comply with the new regula-Brokerages which must increase their capital should

come up with half of the addi-

tional amount in the first 12 months, noted the statement. Also, each brokerage should provide a JD 150,000 guarantee to the AFM as of July 1. 1994 in order to protect the, rights of customers dealing with securities, said the state-

ment, proportional and in a short Draft laws

The committee said it was

people to make investment and also in line with the provisions of the economic restructuring These decisions, taken at a meeting partly attended by Minister of Finance Samt

putting together drift regula-

tions and legislation which

would govern the operations of

market-maker companies and

introduce new investment in-

struments and, thus increase

competition and hefp avoid

The statement noted that the

new regulations were in line

with the government's policies

aimed at boosting economic

growth through encouraging

sharp price fluctuations.

Gammoh, were aimed at improving the quality of AFM services, noted the committee statement. It said that the implementation of these regulations coin-

cides with a package of mea-sures which include, among other things., new regulations for investment funds that would safeguard interests of

U.S. auditors end check on UNRWA services

AMMAN (J.T.) - A twoperson delegation from the inspector general's office at the U.S. State Department today (Tuesday) conclude a six-day visit to Jordan and leave for

the occupied West Bank. Max Aguilar and Michael Capozzi who have been inspecting services to Patestinian refugees in Jordan. Syria and Lebanon, toured refugee camps and met with officials in three countries which host re-

According to an official at

the headquarters of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) here, the two U.S. officials are auditors responsible for examining UN-RWA expenditures of U.S. contributions to the agency.

At a meeting Monday with Mr. Asem Ghosheh, director of the Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Foreign Ministry, Messrs, Aguilar and Capozzi reviewed services to the refugees in Jordan provided by UNRWA and the Jordanian government.

VACANT POST FOR NATIONAL COORDINATOR IN JORDAN (JORDANIAN) FOR U.N. PROGRAMME ON GLOBAL **ENVIRONMENT FACILITY** SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

The GEF NGO Small-Grants Programme is a pilot programme which aims at providing support for smallscale activities that address global environment programme, i.e. reduce global warming, conserve biological diversity, protect international waters and reduce depletion of the ozone layer. Activities that combat desertification, land degradation and deforestation are also included. The principal objective of the programme is to identify and demonstrate community-based approaches and strategies that could reduce threats to the global environment if replicated successfully over-

Required Qualifications:

The national coordinator for the above programme should be Jordanian He/she should have a solid understanding of environmental problems within the country and of their implications for the global environment. He/she should have:

 Ien of more years experience in the environment field and/or experience with development programmes that have conserved the environment;

 in-depth knowledge of the local NGO community and of relevant local scientific and technical resources;

- experience with small-grant (micro-enterprise) programmes;

 proven management and administrative skills; and - experience in preparing such written materials as project summaries and assessments, programme implementation reports, evaluations and analysis.

The selected candidate will be recruited under Special Service Agreement for one year duration, as of April 1, 1994, for a monthly salary of around JD 550.

For those interested, please send your C.V. to UNDP office P.O.Box 35286, Amman-Jordan. Deadline is March 17, 1994.

green candidate nevertheless. Ibrahim Awamleh, who is We are however, supporting Mr. Shbeilat in his car didacy," Mr. Ma'aitah told the Jordan Times Monday. Many observers of the race believe that Mr. Shbeilat will draw many Islamist votes that

supporter told the Jordan

Times, "Laith Shbeilat represents supporting him."

association believe that Mr. Shbeilat's charismatic appeal and unbudging political views will draw numerous votes from the more proestablishment white list, although it contains Islamists

CONDOLENCES

The Editor and staff of the Jordan Times mourn the passing of Rashed Shahin

uncle of their colleague and friend Mariam M. Shahin May his soul rest in peace.

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Tenants and landlords

THE DRAFT tenants' law that the Lower House of Parliament has been debating is ohviously controversial since it is attempting to reconcile two opposing, albeit legitimate, concerns. On the one hand, there are landlords who need to live off the rents they collect from their properties. On the other hand there are tenants who are by and large middle class and poor and expect to comirae to live in their homes without being subjected unduly to the whims of their landlords.

The basic bone of contention in the new proposed legislation has therefore centred on the right of property owners to evict tenants at the end of their lease by incorporating a clause in their contract to that effect. Under the current law, the tenant can continue to occupy the rented property after the lease ends even if he and the landlord have agreements that the property should be evacuated.

Clearly there are two sides to this issue. Normally parties to a contract live up to the terms of their agreement that they freely negotiate unless public policy is violated. The first legal issue therefore is whether there is a public policy issue when a landlord insists on an article that calls for an effective ending of the lease agreement at the prescribed time mentioned in it. But as public housing is not fully provided by the state, the government depends on the private sector for furnishing houses and apartments to the people who prefer to rent or are not able to build or buy their own bomes. In this sense the government has deliberately made this side of the equation a public policy issue by trying to solve a problem that it cannot afford yet to solve, albeit at the expense of property owners.

Still people who invest in property and depend on them for their livelihood are also entitled to continue to be able to depend on them to make ends meet. A fair return on n investment is a cornerstone of the free enterprise system that Jordan enjoys. If we seek to protect tenants from abuse or exploitation, we must be prepared also to protect landlords from the exploitation of tenants. A balance must be struck on the basis of some kind of fair index calculated in accordance with the inflationary rate. Any such index could then be used to increase rents in accordance with this index. This is the way it is done in many countries.

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As a matter of fact there is room for gradual increases in rental values under the present law. The only trouble is that it is still one sided by favouring the tenant over the landlord. The augmentation on rents is not periodic enough and unrelated to the cost of living. As long as landlords are denied to contract freely the terms of their lease agreements, the law must step in to protect their legitimate interests as well by allowing periodic review of the rent amount in a way that corresponds to the changing costs of living. Since tenants usually enjoy adjusted incomes that are tied to the rising cost of living, why deny the same corresponding adjustment to property owners? Since the existing tenant's law is being subjected to a comprehensive review, why not also differentiate between commercial and private use of properties? It would seem that state protection to tenants need not extend to commercial usage of real estate. This is a serious flaw in the current legislation and deserves rectification. The interruption of the debate on the new law could be put to good use by digging deeper into the various dimensions of the issue. The state has to be fair to all sides, particularly by not pretending that one side is rich and can be damned and the other poor and deserves

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE FACT that leaders of various Yemeni political groups and tribes took part in signing the reconciliation document in Amnian reflects their genuine desire to project the North-South unity forged in 1990, according to At Ra't Arabic daily. The paper said Monday that the Yemenis seem to be intent on further cementing their unity and paving the ground for the creation of state of the law which would rule various Yemeni institutions and prevail over Yemeni lite. His Majesty King Hussein, in his address to the ceremony at Raghadan Palace, underlined the need for the Yemeni leaders to pursue actions that would pave the ground for an end to hostilities and disputes and make sure that their unity remains intact, the paper pointed out. The King also reaffirmed the need for the construction of democratic state that would safeguard human rights and protect national gains, added the paper. It said the King referred to solidarity among the Arahs as a vital pre-requisite for them to confront the challenges of the 21st century. The paper added that the historic meeting in Amman came as a crowning of the King's relentless and sincere efforts to help the Yemeni people protect their unity and embark on huilding a modern and free state.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily tackled the escalating cycle of violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, which the Israelis claim is the work of apponents of the PLO-Israel agreement. This is a big lie on the part of the occupation authorities which have been intent on pursuing their repressive actions against the Palestinians (crespective of any agreements and in total disregard of any international principles since the occupation started in 1967, said Mahmoud Rimawi. The writer said that the Jewish settlers have in fact stepped up their atrocities against the Palestinian people because they do oppose any PLO-Israel agreement that would turn over any hand to Arab rule. The settlers, as well as the Israeli troops, have from blaming the Islamic resistance movement. Hantas, for the collence which they themselves have created on purpose to are. the Oslo deal, said the writer.

By Roger Matthews and Mark Nicholson

THE TIMING of Saudi Arahia's announcement that it is to spend 50bn on purchasing a fleet of passenger aircraft for its domestic carrier could hardly have been less auspicious, For while U.S. President Bill Clinton sought to reap domestic political benefit from this latest success of the U.S. aircraft industry, Saudi Arahians were watching the price of crude oil plunge below \$13 a harrel for

the first time in five years.

It will not be surprising if the financing details and de-livery dates for the deal take some time to work out. U.S. and Western interest in Saudi Arabia for the past year has focused primarily on the government's worsening econontic plight, caused by the 20 per cent decline in oil prices. The main question waiting to be answered was where the spending axe would fall, not where the next large contracts would be placed, Although the U.S. appears now to have fied up the kingdom's aerospace markets for the next decade or more, the Sohn urder may yet be remembered as the last flourish of a hygone era, rather than a

reliable guide to the future. Saudi Arahia is. of course. no stranger to wild fluctuations in annual oil revenues. It chose for one year in the early 1980s in accept a \$110hn fall in income. But it appears to have no strategy for reversing the present slide in prices, and has only very modest financial reserves to cushion the impact. One senior banker in Rivadh is already forecasting a 5 per cent contraction in the economy this year.

If the economic trend is clear, the political response to it remains in some doubt. At the heginning of the year the government announced that it was slashing budget expenditure by 20 per cent. while in Washington, Prince Bandar Bin Sultan, the Saudi amhassador, inegotiated a slowdown in payments to several of America's biggest defence contractors. Formhe first time in its modern history, the government is also having to consider measures ten pact between the ruling family and the rest of the population: no representa-

tion equals no taxation. Changes to the political side of the equation have already heen made, albeit with the caution inherent in deeply conservative regimes. In January, after a gestation period of three decades. King Saudi Arabia's economic plight?

Where would the spending axe fall?

Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz finally gave birth to the idea of creating a 60-man Majlis Al Shura. or Consultative Council, whose task is to advise him and the government on selected policy issues. From a Western perspective it scarcely heralds the dawn of Saudi democraev, hut within the local context it was widely viewed as an important step towards popular participation in government.

The council can only advise, and then solely on issues selected by the king. But with two-thirds of the members holding advanced degrees from Western universities, they could inject a fresh approach and perhaps a hint of urgency into the way Saudi Arahia faces up to the longer-term consequences of its descent from sudden. enormous wealth to that nf a middle-income country with a per capita gross national product (GNP) less than half that of the U.K.

Iragi President Saddam Hussein can claim responsihility for having stripped away the financial safety net with which Saudi Arahia protected itself from previous sharp falls in oil revenues. The estimated \$55bn-\$60hn which it cost the kingdom to fund the international military effort required to drive the Iraqis out of Kuwait forced Saudi Arahia into borrowing \$4.5hn. its first international loan. Reserves immediately available to the government now stand at little more than \$6hn. Net official foreign reserves are closer to \$70hn, hut more than 80 per cent of that accounts for statutory cover for the currency, amounts held against letters of credit, liabilities to the commercial banks, and loans which will never be

repaid. The loss of reserves lends greater-weight-to-the urguments of those calling for more emphatic official action" to reduce the substantial? hudgetary and current account deficits. A report nine months ago by the Inter-(IMF) warned: "The medium-term outlook is for growine hudgetary and external current account deficits because current expenditure growth, even if modest, is not expected to be matched by an increase in oil receipts. Such developments would be unsustainable and could cause

damage to the economy."

which the IMF hased its assessments have worsened significantly, mainly because of the fall in the oil price, but also because the government is unlikely to have stayed within the spending limits it set itself for 1993. In 1992 it had set out with the intention of lopping some 28 per cent off spending, but in the event expenditure of about \$55bn was some \$11hn over target. The overall hudget deficit expressed as a percentage of ross domestic product (GDP) was ahout 10 per cent, some three times greater than forecast, and more than double that of the U.S. Further efforts last year to trim spending are likely to have been more than offset hy the decline in oil revenues.

Since then the forecasts on

warned that even if the authorities kept to their targets. in 1993 total debt would rise frnm 56 per cent of GDP to 60 per cent, and unless further stringent measures were adapted would rise to 80 per cent in 1997. The hudgetary implications of a mounting debt-servicing requirement are clear, hut what is also of concern to the private sector is the extent to which increased government horrowing will squeeze funds available for non-official projects. The repatriation of funds since the end of the Gulf war has been sufficient to ensure plentiful banking liquidity. even after government borrowing, but bankers admit that it is not a trend that is guaranteed. Those flows and the slow-

"Although the U.S. appears now to have tied up (Saudi Arabia's) aerospace markets for the next decade or more, the \$6bn order (for passenger aircraft) may vet be remembered as the last flourish of a bygone era."

leaving the deficit/GDP ratio still stuck obstinately in dou-

hle figures. Against this background it was no longer credible for the government to announce. once again, that it was merely planning to cut expenditure. It was already obvious that government spending would have to decline in line with oil revenues, just to avoid the deficit worsening. On present oil price trends, and assuming a continuing Saudi output of 8m barrels a day revenues this year might not top \$30bn.

This would suggest total budget receipts of about \$38bn, compared with the \$53.66n forecast by the IMP in its last report. This possible shnrtfall of \$15bn is partially acknowledged in the scant details released of the spending at \$42.7bn. a claimed reduction of some 20 per cent. Saudi Arahia is thus left in the uncomfortable position of having to cut deeply, but without any assurance that it can reduce the domestic borrowings needed to fund the budget

The IMF has already

down in fulfilling arms contracts should also help ease the country's balance of payments problems, which have mirrored those of the budget. The \$19.4bn current account deficit in 1992 was more than \$8bn over forecast, and the 12 per cent fall in the value of imports during the first half of last year is likely to have been more than offset by the subsequent decline in oil revenues. Further international borrowing, although probably not directly by the government, therefore seems inevitable.

The good news for Saudi Arabians, except for the princely few pocketing hefty commissions, is that cutting some of the fat from the budget is not a very onerous task. After the start of the Gulf war, the government ing spree. in part to thank its allies for their help. But some military advisers in Riyadh claim that little of the new equipment is required to ensure the defence of the kingdom against present known threats, especially as the U.S. personnel can swiftly make operational the equipment left hehind after the war in

The first modest attempt 10 address the situation has been the rescheduling of \$6hn out the \$9hn in payments due to U.S. companies over the next two years for purchase of F-15 fighter aircraft. That may have provided some official justification for the decision to go ahead with the civil aircraft order. Other delays in payments, agreed with defence contractors, are likely to fol-low, with the possibility of out-right cancellations held in reserve.

A similarly modest start has also hegun on reducing planned increases in domestic capital spending, with Saudi Aramco, the national oil company, scaling down or cancelling projects, including a new \$100m head office, and the heaviest spending ministries reviewing their plans for the year.

The astonishing \$2.1bn spent on subsidising wheat production in 1992 — making the desert kingdom the world's sixth largest exporter --- was due to have been cut last year by \$700m. The crop also absorbs an estimated 90 per cent of the nation's annual water consumption. a commodity that on present rates of extraction has a lower life expectancy than oil. which would seem to make the argument for further sharp subsidy cuts not just financially sensible but imperative for the nation's longterm viability.

But the ripest target of all is still not discussed publicly in the kingdom. As the IMF team was told by officials last year: "Political and social considerations preclude a reduction in subsidies or an increase in fees or charges." In other words, hands off one of the world's most comprehensive welfare states, which guarantees its citizens a virtually tax-free environment and provides many basic ser-

vices at no. or little, cost. It is that issue which, for the senior members of the House of Saud, appears to lie unchallenged political power. But it is equally an issue that will not go away, with the indigenous population having officially topped 12m and growing at about 3.5 per cent annually, one of the highest rates in the world. The burden of recurrent

and infrastructure spending on items such as education.

healthcare and housing is certain to mount for the rest of the decade and beyond. Unless the balance of world oil supply and demand confounds most present predictions, which includes the assumption that at some point Iraq will resume exports, the government will have to supplement budget spending cuts with revenueraising measures and find more ways of channelling individual wealth into the national exchequer.

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One of the long-held tenets among professional Saudi watchers is that the greatest threat to the stability of the regime would come from a serious breakdown in the cohesion of the extended royal family. If social equity was to play any part in the government's future revenueraising plans, it is precisely that group of people who would be expected to contribute most. This is possibly where the newly formed Consultative Council will eventually find its niche: as the cautious proponent of ideas which are common-place among nations with similar income levels, but still politically incorrect in Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, the government will continue to count its hlessings, foremost among them 25 per cent of the world's known oil reserves and the possibility of being able to continue producing 8m barrels a day for at least the next 100 years. Saudi Arabia can also derive some satisfaction that its two greatest potential external threats. Iraq and Iran, are mired in their own domestic problems, while continuing peace efforts are defusing the threat of further Arab-Israeli conflicts. The decision to press ahead with the \$6bn aircraft order serves in part to underline those strengths.

It also reinforces the government's desire not to rock the domestic boat more than absolutely necessary, which is, as ever, likely to prove the best guide to future Saudi policy. Even so, there is little prospect this year of much cheering news to offset the country's more sombre economic long-term prospects. More than a passing thought should be spared for the responsibility resting on the cer team on June 20, when they take the field for their first World Cup match. against Holland, in Washington. A win, even a goal. might be worth more politically to the House of Saud than a dollar on the price of

The Financial Times



Algeria edges closer to peace

By Catherine Simon

WITH NO acknowledged negotiations between the Algerian government and the Islamic fundamentalists. Algiers residents are reduced to speculation. The smallest clue in an official statement gives rise to confused and heated assumptions, particularly now during Ramadan.

The fact that the Commis-sion for a National Dialogue (CDN, which includes three members of the armed forces) publicly referred to contacts with the leaders of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) has been seen as a first sign.

The appointment four days later of defence minister General Liamine Zéroual to the "presidency of the state" seemed to confirm speculation that after considerable hesitation, the authorities have openly given the army the job of settling the issue. Yet nothing tangihle has happened since then.

In his first public statement on Feb. 7. President Zéroual called for "serious conversations" with "all the political forces of the nation without

The local press saw the address as an appeal designed to rally the people, although it was little more than a repetition of what he had said last October in an interview with the pro-government daily El Moudjahid. Nevertheless, there are dif-

ferences. General Zéroual has since become the country's top man and this time his plea brought an unexpected reaction: the following day, Anouar Haddam, a representative of the FIS in exile known for his hardline Islamic fundamentalist stances, made an unusual statement condemning violence.

Although he did not go as far as condemning the killing of civilians. Mr. Haddam expressed the hope that there would be an end to the killing of people "not involved in security operations using force." But there is still a long way to go before a truce can be agreed, and the FIS and its offshoots are not ready, any more than is the army. The most chilling proof of this came on the same day, Feb. 8, when a French reporter was murdered in the Algiers kasbah.

Belbadj (the two top men in the banned FIS who have been in prison for over two years) are in a position to provide a solution to Algeria's political crisis, they are welcome to take part in the national dialugue", said General Abdelmajid Cherif, who is close to President Zéroual, in a statement to the weekly Algérie-Actualité. In its wake, El Sharq El Awsat, a Saudi daily published in London, announced on Feb. 9 that "a general amnesty for all political prisoners" would be proclaimed "in the next few

If "Abassi Madani and Ali

days".
That same evening the Algerian press issued a denial which seemed to shoot down yet another rumour. But the question is whether the item in the Saudi daily was an unfortunate error or an altempt to test the mood. At the same moment in Washington, the Compass agency announced that four 'Islamic fundamentalist leaders", including Abdelkader Hachani, were on the point of being released from prison and placed under house arrest "on the new Algerian president's orders". Although Abassi

Madani and Ali Belhadi were not among the four, their release was said to be under negotiation. Compass pointed out, quoting 'informed sources', that the two ex-FfS leaders could be let out "at the start or the end of the Ramadan.

Two years after the state of emergency was proclaimed on Feb. 9, 1992, it is clear that the policy of concentrating on security alone has failed. The bloody irrn events have taken in Algeri. ..as cost some 3,000 lives, victim of terrorism or government e. ression. Yet neither the FIS nor the government has succeeded in rallying a population tired of a state of near-war of which it has be-

come a hostage and an alibi. The proposed dialogue with the fundamentalists is evidentaimed at separating the legalist elements from the underground militant fighters and bringing back into the policlusion zone. tical process those least difficult to get on with. But at what price and under what condi-

The Guardian Weekly.

tions? — The Guardian

Key dates in the Bosnian tragedy

PARIS (AFP) -- International efforts to halt the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina may be entering a critical phase with a diplomatic initiative from Russia and NATO willingness to intervene military. Here is a list of key dates in the conflict.

Feb. 29: Bosnian Muslims and Croats vote overwhelmingly for the independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina, then a Republic of Yugoslavia. - April S: The Federal Serbian

Army launches its seige of Sarajevo. - April 6: The European Community (EC) recognises Bosnian independence, triggering a declaration by Bosnian Serbs

of their own republic. - April 7: The United Nations Security Council authorises the deployment of 14,000 U.N. troops in former Yugoslavia. - May 22: Bosnia joins Slovenia and Croatia as new members of the United Na-

- Sept. 1S: The United Nations approves the deployment of several thousand additional troops for U.N. protection forces (UNPROFOR) in the former Yugoslavia.

March 1: U.S. forces begin operation to parachute food and medical supplies into eastern Bosnia.

- March 25: Bosnian president Alia Izetbegovic, a Muslim, and Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban sign the Vance-Owen peace plan in New

· April 12: NATO launches its "Deny Flight" operation aimed at enforcing the air ex-

 April 21: The United Nations designates the Srebrenica enclave a "safe haven."

- May 6: Bosnian Serbs reject the Vance-Owen plan. - June 18: The United Nations

approves the deployment of

7,600 additional U.N. troops joining 9,400 already in

Bosnia - to protect safe - Aug. 9: NATO announces its readiness, with U.N. authorisation, to lannch air strikes on Serb positions if the Serb siege of Sarajevo and other safe havens continues or if UN-PROFOR units are attacked. Ang. 20: Lord Owen and new negotiator Thorvald Stoltenberg present a new overall settlement proposal to the warring parties, which is rejected in September by the Bosnian

Muslims. Dec. 3: Geneva talks on dividing Bosnia-Herzegovina along ethnic lines end in fai-

Jan. 11: At Brussels summit, NATO heads of state and goverument say they are ready. with go-ahead from the U.N. Security Council, to stage air strikes to prevent the strangulation of Sarajevo and the safe havens, as well as other threatened regions

Feb. 9: Bosnian Serbs and Muslims reach agreement on immediate Sarajevo ceasefire. and agree to remove their heavy weapons and place them under U.N. control. The accord comes just hours before 5 the NATO council, meeting in Brussels, acts on a U.S.-French proposal and threatens to launch air strikes unless all heavy weapons above Sarajevo are removed from a radius of 20 kilometres from the centre of the city. Ultimatum set to expire at midnight GMT, Feb.

- Feb. 17: Russia announces that Bosnian Serbs have agreed to meet NATO ultima-

- Feb. 18: UNPROFOR announcs that some 400 Russian U.N. troops are expected in Sarajevo ahead of the NATO deadline.

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Freedom continues to elude East European press long after communism

By Sandra Lacut Agence France Presse

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plement but s with resent VIENNA --- Despite the collanse of Communist rule, press freedom remains clusive across alih moğ Eastern Europe where governments are taking advantage of long-held let: ingering economie hardships CSVIONAL Sat to tighten their grip on media hat the presstability of g

"Attempts to control the media are evident in Central Europe, but also in the Balkans, the Baltic states and the republics of the former Soviet Union, under the cover of the real economic difficulties facing the former Communist countries," said Johann Fritz. director of the Vienna-based International Press Institute

"The situation exceeds the boands of tolerance in Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and in Serbia, where the state controls all media and production facilities and where economic difficulties are such that the existence of the press is threatened." he added.

In 1993, 290 newspapers and 266 magazines, out of a total of 2,264 registered in 1992, were shut down in Ukraine.

Mr. Fritz quoted an unnamed Ukrainian journalist as saying that "our country will

soon boast a law on the press but the press will no longer exist." This statement, Mr. Fritz added, "might apply to many former Communist countries," such as Albania, Croatia, Macedonia and Russia, "where while officially rec-

ognising freedom of expression, the authorities are not prepared to give up their control over television and the In Russia, President Boris

Yeltsin reasserted control over the state television and news agencies following frequent television appearances by ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky on the eve of the December elections.

But "the economic threat is even greater than the political one. Inflation may bring an end to state subsidies without which many dailies will disappear," said Mr. Fritz. Some (papers) no longer publish because of poor distribution, which is virtually exclusively in the hands of the state. The current legislation discourages foreign investors, whose presence in Eastern Europe has played a key role in improving press freedom.

In the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Slovenia, the media are doing better economically thanks to the active participation of Western

"Despite liberal laws, governments retain considerable influence over the media. In Poland, arrests and prosecutions for harming the state or lack of patriotism are frequent," said Mr. Fritz. Several television journalists who produced programmes deemed to be "anti-government" were

In Hungary, a third of the journalistic staff at the state radio are to be laid off within the next three months, officialfor "budgetary reasons," although the journalists maintain the move is politically motivated.

In Romania, many journalists refuse "to be muzzled by the government, as was the case under Communist rule," said Mr. Fritz.

"Eastern European journalists are (also) victims of economic mafias which do not hesitate to kill when the press investigates cases of corruption." he added, pointing to the recent assassination of a Lithuanian journalist by a crime syndicate.

In Slovakia, the government of Premier 'Vladimir Meciar citing "economic imperatives. cut off state subsidies to opposition media organs.

Boorda reached the rank of

petty officer first class, serving

primarily in naval aviation. In

1962, he was selected for offic-

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know so I wasn't scared," he

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Newspapers, the most oil produced in the south.

Former Foreign Minister

An attempt by the east to hreak away from Nigeria in

have crushed pressure for a confederal system or seces-

The present psychosis of disintegration is attributed parily to the annulment of

By Ade Obisesan Agence France Presse

LAGOS - Plans by Nigeria's military rule to organise a constitutional conference early this year have sparked fears among Nigerians that their country may be sliding lowards break-up along ethnic and religious lines.

Since the beginning of February, Nigeria's media. especially weekly magazines. have made possible disintegration of Nigeria their headline stories.

"If Nigeria breaks (...) the shape of what will come". will Nigeria fall apart? 'Get set for the worst (...) the nation may grind to a "Why the north is afraid of national confer-"Make up or hreak up, the choice facing Niger-"Constitutional conference: threats to Nigeria's existence", are some of the big headlines of these magazines.

The reports infer that the national conference, designed by the present military regime to find solutions to the nation's problems, might just be the catalyst needed to break up the country.

Already many powerful religious and political leaders from the Muslim-dominated north are reported to have manifested their opposition to the national conference,

powerful of which are located in the south, insinuate that the north would suffer more should the country break up because at present northerners benefit significantly from revenue derived from

Bolaji Akinyemi and former secessionist leader and warlord of the "Biafra republic", Emeka Odumegwu-Ojukwu. have warned against the consequences of disintegration.

1967 plunged the country into a 30-month civil war in which at least 1 million people died. Since the end of that war in January 1970, unity has only been maintained by successive military regimes which

> their Jerritory lbos have used advertisements in national dailies to complain that they are still being socially and politically

tion, which millionaire politi-

cian Moshood Abiola

That election, judged free

and fair by local and intenta-

tional observers, was cancel-

led by the regime of General

Ibrahim Babangida for

The cancellation caused

anger and resentment among

the ethnic Yoruba in the

south-west of Nigeria, from

where chief Abiola origin-

For the lbos in eastern

Nigeria and the minorities in

the southern and south-

eastern parts, the complaint

is either over alleged margi-

nalisation or unfair distribu-

lion of resources derived.

from national, resources...

especially oil, derived from

claimed to have won.

alleged irregularities.

Nigeria prepares for constitutional parley amidst concerns for its unity

Looming fears

SET FOR THE WORST: Prospect of unstability are denying Lagos the economic boom it had expected (File photo)

Other southern minority groups, particularly the ugonis in rivers state, emisider themselves as "ourcasis" he-

cause, according to them, re-

for their failed attempt to

secede from Nigeria 27 years

Thousands of people have died in the past three years in religious riots involving Muslims and Christians in paris of

Of the Iti heads of state who have ruled Nigeria since

"The present psychosis of disintegration is attributed partly to the annulment of last June presidential election which millionaire politician Mashood Abiala claimed to have won."

venue derived from oil extracted from their territory is only being used to develop other parts of the country.

Among Christian minority groups in central and northern Nigeria, the main fear is continued political and religious domination by the Musindependence from Britain in 1960, only three were from the south and they were all Christians

Of the seven from the ...? north, six were Muslims while the only Christian was general Yakubu Gowon

conference, for which no date has yet been set, are still being worked out by a commission set up specially for that purpose.

However the regime of General Sani Ahacha has made clear it will not compromise on the issue of existence of Nigeria as an entity.

In a statement, human rights and pro-democracy groups represented by Campaign for Democracy (CD) north said that the conference was a ruse by the Ahacha regime to prolong its stay in power.

Whatever happens, 1 think it would be in the best. interest of Nigeria to remain one. Most nations of the world are forging unity and not working towards disintegration. Nigeria should draw lesson from the ex-Soviet Union", an African

NATO Bosnia commander rose from recruit to admiral

By Edith M. Lederer Associated Press

LONDON - Adm. Jeremy M, boorda, the NATO commander in charge of all operations in former Yugoslavia, is the first sailor in the U.S. navv to climb from the lowest enlisted rank to four-star admir-

"It says something about our country — that people can work hard and do well and be recognised for it," said the SS-year-old grandson of Ukrainian Jewish immigrants.

ed for the g ? Adm. Boorda dropped out of high school, fibbed about his he was 17 because of family problems. Being an officer, let alone an admiral, wasn't even a dream when he enlisted in

Now, he's being touted as the next chief of naval operations, to succeed Adm. Frank B. Kelso, who announced this week that he will retire in

April. Since receiving his fourth star in 1991, Adm. Boorda has been commander-in-chief of U.S. naval forces in Europe and commander of NATO forces in Southern Europe — a job that puts him in charge of any NATO airstrikes around Sarajevo if the warring parties don't pull back their artillery

by Sunday night's deadline. As U.S. navy commander, based in London, he is responsible for 28,000 American sailors from Norway to Africa to South Africa to Israel. It is the NATO job in Naples, Italy, where he is now in charge of about 12,500 allied forces, that has put him in the spotlight.

(Centinued from page 1)

bring back big guns.

— German Chancellor Hel-

mut Kohl said he hoped a

high-level international confer-

ence could be called to work

out a peace plan for former

- Fighting raged in parts of

Bosnia outside the newly paci-

fied confines of Sarajevo, the

utged the United States to

send peacekeepers to

Sarajevo, hut U.S. Defence

Secretary William Perry told

him Washington had no soch

intention. Interfax news agen-

sia and the United States will

altend a meeting of interna-

(Continued from page f)

are discussing the release of

Palestinian prisoners.
At least 9,000 Palestinians

are believed held in Israeli

jails, and PLO leader Yasser

Arafat has said repeatedly that

he will not sign a final agree-

ment with the Jewish state

until he has a schedule for their

Hassan Asfour of the

Palestinian delegation and Jac-

ques Neriah, a top aide to

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak

freedom in hand.

- Special envoys from Rus-

Russia's defence minister

U.N. protection farce said.

Yugoslavia.

Clinton sees Serb compliance

PLO, Israel resume talks

NATO forces have dropped thousands of tonnes of food to starving Bosnians, NATO ships and aircraft have enforced U.N. sanctions. Since last year, NATO pilots have been training for what would be the 16-nation alliance's first offensive military action - and

they've been ready for months. "I've got a lot of airplanes, a lot of pilots who now know what to do, how to do it and are ready to do it if we need to," Adm. Boorda said in an interview last fall.

A gregarious, compact man with a ready smile. Adm. Boorda likes to think of himseit as a good leader. Even of the record, nobody has a bad word to say about "Mike" Boorda, as he is called by

friends. Born in South Ben, Ind., he grew up in Chicago and was living in Momence, Ill., where bis family ran a clothing store,

when he joined the navy. After going awol for a few days on his first liberty. Adm. Boorda was subjected to some tough navy discipline. A chief petty officer who took on interest in him sent him off to finish school with an order to do well.

"He really taught me that succeeding was something special and I worked my tail off,' Adm. Boorda said.

During bis first year in the navy, he married Bettie Moran of Norman, Okla., whom he met in school following boot camp in Oklahoma. Their first ehild, David, was born physically handicapped.

He once said this made him grow up very fast. Within six years, Adm

nonal officials in Bonn on

Tuesday to try to maintain the

momentum for a lasting peace

staged noisy rallies in Belgrade

to thank Russia for helping

prevent NATO an strikes

against their Bosnian kin amil

to accuse the West of betrayal.

aid deliveries to central Bosnia

on Tuesday after NATO lifted

its immediate threat of air

strikes against Serbs around

sweep hack Serbs and Croats

over broad areas at Bosnia

following the U.N. demilitar-

isation of Sarajevo, Bosnian

Deputy Defence Minister Arif

Pasalic was quoted as saying.

Rabin, announced that there

would be no public statements

about the negotiations until a

news conference at mid-

Israeli Environment Minis-

ter Yossi Sarid, who has been

close to the talks, told israel's

army radio Monday that "this

week, by all signs, should be a

He added: "But of course, in

one week such complicated

negotiations cannot be com-

good week."

pleted."

afternoon on Wednesday.

- Muslim forces will try to

Sarajero, the U.N. said.

U.N. convoys will resume

- Serhian nationalists

settlement in Busnia.

Yemeni leaders leave for home

(Continued from page 1) now move to put its provisions into force. Mr. Alawi was speaking be-

fore leaving for home after attending the signing ceremony as a representative of Sulian Qaboos Ben Saeed of Oman. Oman and Jordan are working towards ensuring that the

Yemeni people achieve their aspiration and reconciliation. Mr. Ben Alawi said.

Asked un prospects of improved relations among Arah countries Mr. Alawi expressed hope that the Yemeni reconciliation would serve as a first step towards a wider reconciliation among the Arah

Oman had been in close contact with the leaders in Sanua and Aden to contain the dispute and end the differences.

to return to their harracks. It

forces.

The six-month-old dispute between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his vicepresident. Ali Salem Al Beidh. has threatened to rupture the May 1990 merger between the conservative, tribal North Yemen and the south, once the Arab World's only Marxist

state. The Jordan News Agency. Petra, said Mr. Beidh flew home on Monday. It gave no other details.

Mr. Salch also headed back to Yemen, and Petra quoted him as saying before leaving that the Yemeni crisis was

King Hussein, who hrought the two leaders together in Amman on Sunday, met them again on Monday to try to defuse the crisis. It was not immediately clear whether he succeeded. The two leaders had delayed

their departure. King Hussein met them at the Hashimiyah Palace near Amman, where they were

"The King is trying to prevent the Yenrem peace process front collapsing and wants to contain the problem before the two Yemeni leaders return a Jonlanian official home said

Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh. who had not met since the feud erupted last August, reluctantly shook hands and exchanged kisses in front of King Hussein after the signing ceremony on

Monday. Later, the King brought them together for their first face-in-face talks since August. The talks, which lasted over

Mr. Ben Alawi said that

Clash mars Yemeni accord

(Continued from page 1)

four hours, ended at 2 a.m. Jordanian and Yemeni officials also ealls for a swift integration of the northern and southern said.

They described the atmosphere as tense and dry. "He (the King) was trying to break the ice between the two leaders but obviously this needs some time." one Jordanian official Differences between the two

leaders had threatened to tear apari Yemen. The accord provides for

military, economic, administrative and political reform which Yemeni politicians hope will end Yemen's worst erisis since the merger. Jordanian officials said the

King has proposed a timetable for implementing the accord. Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh have been at odds despite the 1990 union. But the lingering friction hetween mortherners and southerners has intensified over the division of political and economic power in the

intant republic since par-

hamicutate elections in April

last year, the first multi-party bailor held on the Arabian Pennsula No patty won a majority in men's 301-member partiamen. Mr. Saleh's General People's Concess (GPC) and Mr. Beidh's Account Socialist

manded a share of power.

Party (YSP), who .. I ruled inintly since the meteet. . A 177 seats between them and looked likely to continue their But the northern Islantic

Islah party, with 62 scats, de-Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh accommodated the tundamentalists, but since then the GPC and Islah have tormed a strong alliance, which

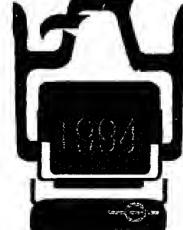
the socialists say is aimed at

marginalising them altogether.

ينظم القسم التجاري في السفارة الامريكية في عمان المعرض السنوي للكمبيوتر الامريكي



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ening on Tuesday evening 22 Feb. 1994. Exhibition will be open to public on edneedby and Thursday 23,24 Feb. 1994 from 10:00 am till 12:00 am at the

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U.S. tries to enlist Europe in Japan offensive African workers restive

-WASHINGTON (R) — The >Unite States is probing a new front after failing to win its way with Tokyo on trade, urging Europe to join in an allied 'market-opening offensive.

or Officials say the 12-nation European Union (EU) is now mulling a response at its Belgian headquarters after being approached by U.S. officials for help in recent days.

The Americans are putting out feelers and have already made contact in Brussels. They have told us they would dearly like to work more closely and be unified on the Japan question." said one British official. "We share the objectives, it's the means that make us un-

The new U.S. tactic follows this month's failure to strike a -bilateral trade deal with Japan. But while the Europeans and Americans are united in their belief that Japan must open its doors to more foreign goods. they part ways over tactics. : President Bill Clinton is pushing a results-oriented

strategy that would use indicators to gauge progress in cut-ting Japan's \$131 billion trade surplus. Officials insist the benefits would be shared by all. Europe included, and have stressed throughout the drive that Japan is an outlier among all the big industrial powers. not just vis-a-vis America.

Japan rejects the aggressive U.S. approach as typical Washington bullying that amounts to governmentmanaged trade.

The Europeans too are leery that the U.S. stance will lead to market quotas for American goods: An outcome that flies in the face of internationally accepted free-trade principles.

"One country with the biggest market in the world should not dominate the agenda to this extent," said the British official, "the Americans clearly want Europe to put pressure on Japan but it would be much easier to do so if we knew the U.S. was going to abide by the multilateral approach."

The European Union made a tentative move Thursday to sti:p between Japan and the United States in their lo miong trade war, suggesting al three powers might seek a joint solution.

"It may be that the right course now is to trilateralise the whole process, for the Japanese, the Europeans and the Americans collectively to get together." EU Trade Commissioner Leon Brittan said in Brussels. "If we pool our ideas... it may be that we can

find a way forward." Tea for the three is not exactly what America has in

Instead officials envision a tight Transatlantic alliance that could squeeze the sort of concessions out of Tokyo that Washington's lone-dog approach failed to pull off. "Background pressure" is all

that is envisioned for now, although officials refuse to rule out a more formal alliance. Brussels has been more than happy in the past to let America do all the spade work on such matters while it shares the benefits, but this time the U.S. spade isn't working.

What is more. Europe's economy is crippled by unemployment and could badly do with a quick shot of export-led growth.

Like Washington - which runs a deficit with Japan of close to \$60 billion - Europe is clocking up ever-growing shortfalls with Japan, totalling some \$40 billion a year. Brussels has its reservations

about the two-pronged offensive but is still mulling the U.S. entreaty, officials said, adding that any extra pressure would help, as would a stronger joint push in the multinational GATT forum. The United States has been

quarreling with Japan about a handful of tariff cuts at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and is counting on the Europeans for support in pressing Japan to open its financial services sec-

Alps by banning foreign trucks

from crossing the country by

The Alp initiative, which

now becomes law after being

approved in a referendum, also

bans the construction of new

roads if they are intended to

It aims to preserve the Alps

from pollution by freight

trucks that roar across the

country and requires that they

be hauled across Switzerland

About 80 per cent of freight

by rail in 10 years' time.

road by the year 2004.

boost transit capacity.

"There is a shared concern about Japan's trade imbalance but it isn't a matter of plotting and ganging up against the Japanese. It's matter of multilateralising this problem and trying to deal with it," said a European official.

"Brittan has put out ideas, (U.S. Trade Representative Mickey) Kanıor has put out ideas. It's too early to tell yet what will happen," said the

And experts are divided about the use of such an alliance. Some officials say the Euro-

peans have from the start supported the tenacious U.S. effort to tackle Japan. Others say past U.S.-European attempts to close ranks all floundered. "It has its advantages: It's

not bilateral and it ratchets up tbe pressure. But the downside is just as obvious: It would be perceived as a clear case of the round eyes ganging up on the Asians," said Julius Katz, a former U.S. trade negotiator.

Swiss vote to ban road

after devaluation of CFA

can labour unions, fighting to cushion workers from the impact of a 50 per cent devaluation, ordered members Monday to prepare for action in Benin and urged strikes in Gabon.

In Senegal, police were still holding opposition leaders after a bloody protest last week caused at leat partly by fallout from the January devaluation.

Benin's umbrella Interunion Crisis Committee said that its demands for workers to be compensated for spiralling prices caused by last month's devaluation were met by what it called govenment stalling.

"Despite the (committee's) goodwill and the concrete and reasonable proposals it has made to the government... negotiations have reached a deadlock," a committee statement said Monday.

It did not directly call for strikes but said union members

should "mobilise for prompt and decisive action to persuade the government to meet their demands."

The committee said its request for wages to be at least partly linked to inflanon had met "dilatory" government offers of tax rebates, rises in pensions and social benefits and payment of outstanding wage arrears to public sector employees.

Since the 13 Central and West African members of the CFA franc zone devalued their common CFA currency by 50 per cent on Jan. 12 prices have soared throughout the zone. some more than doubling.

In Gabon, witnesses said union and opposition calls for an open-ended, general strike from Monday apparently met little initial response. One resident of the capital.

Liberville, told Reuters by telephone there were some protest marches against the effects of devaluation but most people appeared to be working

Neighbouring Congo, where the price of pharmaceutical products had soared since devaluation, capped the cost of 100 essential medicines Mon-

A course of drugs for malaria, the country's biggest killer, was pegged at 2,670 CFA (\$4.58) from an old price of 1.720 (\$2.85) after peaking at the stronger the stronger both from both four fifths of both fifth

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3.155 (\$5.41). an official said. He added that a government committee would by the end of the week announce maximum prices for bread, sugar and cement which have been on sale for up to three times predevaluation levels.

In Ivory Coast, the opposition daily La Voie newspaper cited bakery unions as saying a 50 to 60 per cent rise in bread prices was imminent unless the government introduced sub-

Although locally baked, it said, Ivorian bread was made from imported wheat, salt and yeat and its price would have to reflect the foreign-currency cost of ingredients. The two Senegalese opposi-

tion leaders still being held on Monday were arrested after demonstrations last week in which six people were killed. The protests combined Isla-

mic and secular opposition to the socialist government with dissatisfaction fanned by de: valuation.

China vows to unionise foreign enterprises

BEIJING (R) - China's government-controlled union has vowed ot organise workers at foreign-funded companies to cope with a growing number of safety violations, the China Daily said Monday.

The All-China Federation of Trade Unions' goal is to have unions in more than half of the foreign-invested enterprises by the end of this year, the newspaper said.

Officials estimate only about one quarter have unions now, "Over the past few years, the foreign investment boom has given rise to more labour disputes in foreign-funded firms," the China Daily said. "Disputes usually centre on ambiguous contracts, work-

hours, low pay and poor worker safety conditions. Last year, the newspaper

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said, a total of 27 to 200 employees in a hardware factory in China's showcase Shenzhen special economic zone lost their fingers in unsafe machin-

At another factory in the booming southern province of Guangdong, workers went on strike after they were forced to work two months without a

ery, some on their first day of

day of rest. Local authorities in Guangdong, which suffered several horrific fires at labourintensive factories last year. will also hit companies hard in their pocket books if they ignore fire safety rules, it re-

ported. It quoted union officials as saying that the purpose of organising workers was to

The Jordan Importing & Trading Co., Tel. 651885, 655048, Fax. 611068, Amman.

Designed-in Safety. A feature, not a luxury.

solve problems, not start strikes.

"We do not advocate strikes since they hurt both the factory and workers," Tian Yukun, a union official, told the news-

"Our tasks in foreigninvested enterprises are first to implement the (economic) opening up policy, second to safeguard workers' legitimate rights." he said.

Guangdong, which bad two of China's most serious fires last year in the Shenzhen economic zone, will fine companies heavily if their disregard of fire safety rules causes a disaster, the China Daily said.

Companies found violating codes will be fined between one and five per cent of the losses they incur in a blaze.

crossing Switzerland already travels by train, either in rail cars or in the trucks loaded onto rail wagons. The vote was a slap in the face for the Swiss government's policy towards Europe. coming in the first test of its push for closer ties since Swiss BUICK PARK AVENUE 1993 voters rejected membership of

> 1992. The ban will greatly hamper Swiss negotiators at crucial bilateral talks with the European

the European Economic Area

EEA) market in December

ZURICH (R) — Swiss voters Union (EU) on greater access Sunday approved a controverto each other's markets due to sial proposal to protect the start later this year.

Just under 52 per cent of voters and a clear majority of Switzerland's 25 cantons approved the initiatve. proposed in 1990 by a group of environmentalists. Some 40 per cent of the electorate took part in the referendum.

transit by foreign trucks

Under Switzerland's system of direct democracy, new laws can be put forward for referendum by the collection of at least 100,000 signatures of support.

At a news conference in Berne soon after results were in. Transport Minister Adolf Ogl said the government would respect the electorate's wishes but warned talks with the EU on market liberalisation would now be more difficult.

"This result will certainly! not make the bilateral negotiations with the European Union any easier." he said.

"It will once again be a matter of trying to awake understanding (in the EU) for the Swiss position," he added.

In the talks, which are aimed at negotiating the same market liberalisation enjoyed by othe EEA members, the Swiss hope to win vital access to the huge European market for their hauliers and the national air-

line. Swissair. Switzerland, which lies across the shortest route between northern Europe and Italy, handles some 25 million tonnes of transit freight a year.

Demand on Swiss motorways is expected to surge dra-matically. Official Swiss forecasts see road traffic in the EU doubling over the next 20 to 30 years and transit traffic through Switzerland growing 50 per cent.

The crux of the debate behind the Alp initiative is a 1992 Swiss EU transit accord which guarantees EU trucks weighing less than 28 tonnes unlimited gransit rights on weekdays but curbs the number of 40-tonne

juggernams. In return. Berne agreed to embark on a huge tunnel project to boost trans-Switzerland rail transport capacity to 70 million tonnes a year by around 2010 and to expand existing rail transit facilities for trucks.

500 jobs ANA to cut 1

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan's All Nippon Airways Ltd. (ANA) has announced 1,500 job cuts as part of a restructuring programme aimed at boosting operating profits by 26 billion yen (\$240 million) in the coming

President Seiji Fukatsu said ANA, which announced a joint aircraft maintenaoce agreement with rival Japan Airlines Co. Ltd. (JAL), was facing its "toughest challenge" since it was founded four decades ago.

The ANA restructuring plan was unveiled just three weeks after a similar programme announced by JAL which included 5.000 job cuts and plans to slash capital investment plans by 400 billion yen over four years.

The job cuts at ANA. amounting to 10 per cent of its workforce, will be spread over two years and involve natural wastage, curtailing recruitment and introducing contract employees to some cabin crew positions, a statement said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST, FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation GENERAL TENDENCIES: 2 getting ahead in your line of New products come to your endeavour. Know what will attention now that you won't please your mate the most what-

want to ignore. Study them ever the cost. seriously and they work out to LIBRA: (September 23 to Octo your advantage. Avoid a trouble-maker -who always turns up at the wrong time. ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

Contact an influential person who can give you support for a fine project you have in mind.

Take time for fun later in the day for your happiness. TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

Your ideas are working like magic early in the day so be more aggressive than in the past. Relax at home tonight and you will feel better tomorrow.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Make sure you carry through with promises to others and gain goodwill. Your mate becomes more effectionate as the day pas-

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 2t) Take time to learn what is expected of you by associates and try to please them for possible advancement in your career.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get busy at work ahead of you and gain fine benefits by being coop-erative with others. Good organizational work is the key to success now.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A time to concentrate on

ber 22) Good day to confer with family members and maintain harmony in the home. Sidestep one who is a moother and you will not offend anyones feelings. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Good day to go after the information you need

for a personal project. This day is fine also for communicating with outsiders. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are thinking in a most practical vein and can easly handle a difficult prob-

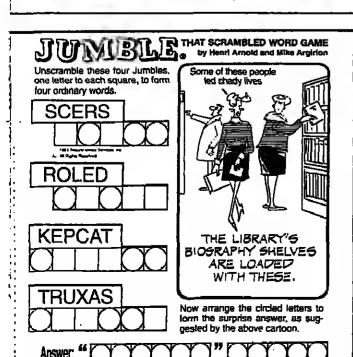
lem now. Express happiness with a loved one. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Morning may be depressing but leter you can go

after personal goals and gain them. Be careful of your money or else there will be none. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Forget the frivolous for now and get busy on practical matters that could give you a

greater income in the future for when times are lean. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A good friend who is wise can tell you how to solve certain problems, so listen carefully. Re-

lax and be content in the even-





Jumbles: FLUIO GAUGE EXOTIC NEWEST The experimental surgeon always found

himself in this position — ON THE CUTTING EDGE

Peanuts







No Steam of DRAS VEICE OFFICE

Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by Harman Surrenky ACHOSS 1 Captures S Prhy to 9 Weather work 13 "Exodus" author 14 Certain solid 15 7ropical plan 16 Topping for kisses 18 Pacity 19 TV sports commentator 34 Imaginative entertainer 39 French connectors 40 River island 41 Missing, abor, 42 Vivaldi opus, or Ada him 47 Vationators 48 Literary Yesterday's Puzzie Solved: monogram 48 Music tor Roge Williams 56 Ringo or Bate S9 Presiding office 60 A Montague 61 Softtary 62 kg — 17 Certain musi 20 Mines 23 Kind of hole 3 Roman poet 4 Sale phrase 26 A thought, in literary form 27 FDR power gp. 29 Camp stams 29 Uncooked 30 Literary

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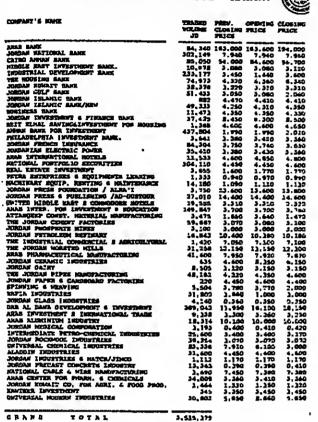
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Canon profit drops

TOKYO (AFP) - Japanese camera and office equipment maker Canon Corp. has said its pre-tax earnings plunged 51.5 per cent tu 37.4 billion yen (\$334 million) in the year to December, blaming the stronger yen. The company said sales declined 2.5 per cent to 1.037 billion ven in the same period, depressed by lower revenue from both its domestic sales and exports which account for four-fifths of total turnover. Canon forecast a stronger profit uf 411 billion yen in the coming year with sales rising to 1,07tt billion yen. Under a restructuring programme, the company aims to remain profitable even if the dollar falls to around 100 yen, partly by developing in-house products to insulate operations against currency movements. In the year just ended, the company suffered lower sales in all product areas except computers and optical equipment.

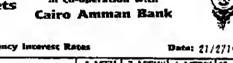
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Jordan Times

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3.125	3.375	3.5625	3.9375	
i: 4.500	4.500	4.500	4.500	
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Precious I	Metals			Date: ?	1/2/1994
Metal	USD/O2	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	Jti/Ges
Gold	380.55	7.50	Silver	5.19	0_120

	, , ,	Dade: 21/2/199	
Corrency	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.6980	0.7000	
Sterling Pound	1.0319	1.0371	
Deutsche Mark	0.4065	0.4085	
Swiss Franc	0.4815	0.4839	
French Franc	0.1195	0.1201	
Japanese Yen	0.8625	0.6658	
Dutch Guilder	0.3622	0.3640	
Swedish Krona	404040	******	
Italian Lire	0.0418	0.0420	
Belgian Franc	****		

Other Currencies	Date: 21/7/1994		
Currency	Bid	Offer	
Rabraini Dinar	1.8320	1.8430	
Lebanese Lira	0.040455.	0.041645	
Soudi Riyal	0-1858	0.1267	
Kowaitt Disur	2.3380	2.3000	
Qutari Riyai	0.1895	0.1905	
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2200	
Omani Riyal	1.7900	1-8060	
UAE Dicham	0.1895	0.1905	
Greek Drachma	0.2735	0.3125	
Cypriot Pound	1.3260	1.3755	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the huving and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession and hullion markety Monday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs One starting One punce of gold	1.3399/09 1.7263/73 1.9370/80 1.4550/60 35.54/58 5.8670/20 1676.5/8.0 106.30/40 7.9468/68 7.4570/20 6.7320/70 \$1.4740/50 \$379.35/379.85	Canadian dulla Deutschemark Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crown Norwegian crow Danish crowns
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Honda to end shareholding Kuwait tightens credit ties with Britain's Rover

TOKYÖ (R) - Honda. Japan's number three car producer, said Monday it planned to end its shareholding links with Britain's Rover Group now German luxury car maker BMW was in control of Rover.

But BMW said it expected business as usual with Honda. Among other links, Rover delivers body parts to Honda and the Japanese company supplies Rover with engines.

European motor industry analysts said it was in no one's interests to end the supply contracts now

Honda Motor Co. Ltd., which had worked closely with Rover for 15 years, owned 20 per cent of it and aimed to support it as a British company, was upset when Bayerisehe Motoren-Werke A.G. (BMW) bought the other 80 per cent of Rover earlier this

Together, BMW and Rover would produce around a million ears a year, forming Europe's seventh largest pro-

"We informed BMW that it is Honda's intention to end uur mutual equity holding relationship with the Rover Group." Honda Motor Co. Ltd. President Nobuhiko Kawamoto said in a statement on Monday after talks with BMW management board Chairman Bernd Pischetsrieder at Honda headquarters in

Rover Chairman Juhn Tuw-

ABU DHABI (AFP) - A

decline in crude prices pushed

down United Arab Emirates

(UAE) oil earnings by around

\$500 milliun in 1993 but all

other sectors recorded growth

due to higher public and pri-

The 1993 oil revenues stood

at 51.35 billion dirhams

(\$13.99 billion) compared with

vate spendine.

ers also joined the meetings. Mr. Kawamoto did not specify whether Honda would sell its Rover stake to BMW, the Rover Holding Company or to

another party. In Munich, a BMW spokesman said the company understood the Honda move but added: "I must emphasise that this is purely an equity move. Ir does not affect Honda's business cooperation with Rover. He said there would be

tween BMW, Rover and Honda but said no dates had yet been fixed. Mr. Kawamoto added: "Regarding our business collaboration with Rover, the series of

several more discussions be-

contracts now existing between Honda and Rover will be reviewed in future business dis-CUSSIONS. "Until now, uur European strategy has included eutlaboration with Rover. In the future we intend to ereate a

sources," he explained. BMW executives, including Mr. Pischetsrieder, came to Tokyo to explain their intentions for Rover. Monday's was the first meeting between BMW and Honda since the

more independent operation in

Europe, using our own re-

buyout was annuunced. Honda supplies engines and components to Rover, contruls some of Rover's car, engine and transmission production licences and is involved in development of new models.

billion) in 1992, the planning

ministry said in its annual re-

decline but oil prices dropped

to an average \$16.33 in 1993

from \$18,44 in 1992 due to a

world recession, a market glut

and excess withdrawal from

stockpiles in industrial states.

expect lower income in 1993

Other Arah Gulf producers

It gave no reason for the

UAE reports fall in oil income

Rover supplies recreational vehicles to Honda for sale in Japan and provides body parts for its Accord models made in Britain, It also owns 20 per cent of the Japanese group's factory in the British town of Swindon.

European motor industry analysts said Honda had currently more to lose than Rover from a break-up.

Rover is now back in profit despite depressed car markets and has its break-even point at 400,000 cars a year.

But Honda is only just building up production at its own Swindon manufacturing plant to the west of London, where it makes 50,000 ears but could go up to 200,000 per year. It uses Rover's suppliers' network and many Rover components.

Hans Hartmann uf Germany's Dresdner Bank said cooperation could not in practice be ended abruptly even if the two companies wanted tu

"That would hit both cumpanies very hard. At the ino-ment BMW would not be able to supply engines and other technical components to Ruver," he said.

Gebhard Klingenstein, industry analyst at brokers Barclays de Zoete Wedd in Frankfurt, added that as Honda did not make any body parts in Europe, preferring to buy them from Rover, it would take some years for it to build up new capacity.

but have yet to publish figures.

Their revenues in 1992 stood at

around \$75 billion, less than

half their 1981 income of mure

The UAE produces 2, in mil-

lion barrels per day (b'd) of

erude, which accuunts for

more than 90 per cent of its

expurts. The price fall has

forced it to lower expenditure

for 1994 to cut a budget deficit.

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than \$180 billion.

rules in supervision drive everyone can look at the haretained earnings, plus any re-KUWAIT (R) - Kuwait is serves - regardless of the

tightening credit rules as part of a drive tu bring banking supervision and regulation up to world standards, the central bank said Sunday.

Governor Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah added that a plan to allow minority foreign participation in local banks was aimed at helping the banks improve management and competitiveness.

Kuwaiti banks had cuped well with the "shock" of the central bank's withdrawal of 1.3 billion dinars (\$4.3 billion) in cheap support funds provided tu tide them over difficulties linked to longstanding debt problems and Iraq's 1990-91 occupation.

The withdrawals in May and September last year were part of a series uf reforms aimed at weaning all the banks off state support and bringing them up to international standards, Asked what additional mea-

sures the central bank had of take to ensure the banks had entered the "real world" or support-free banking. Sheikh Salem replied: "I think they are in the real world. Since 1993 they have been in the real world.

"Since 1991 we are im plementing international accounting standards fully, so lance sheet and know exactly what is there," he said in an

interview. "Capital adequacy requirements (have been enforced) since the end of 1992, and eredit concentration since November 1993. Those are the main international regulations

in that field," he pointed out. He said the bank had issued the six commercial and twu specialised banks with strict credit concentration rules that forbad them from lending more than 10 per cent of their capital base regardless of a elient's collateral.

The banks have until November 1994 to comply with the terms, which are slightly stricter than international norms, he said.

The central bank has also issued credit policy guidelines that require local banks to examine the financial position of prospective borrowers thoroughly before arranging credit. Economists say some banks

client's position in society to influence granting of credit. The credit concentration rules sent to banks in November stipulate that the maximum amount that a bank may lend

to a borrower should not ex-

ceed 10 per cent uf the bank's

capital base — share capital,

have in the past allowed a

financial positions. The instructions are about 12 pages long. The governor said he believed letting foreign banks own a part of Kuwaiti banks

would improve competition,

management practices and in-

additional collateral offered:

provides 200 per cent collareral

you are not allowed to exceed

10 per cent," Sheikh Salem

Previously the banks had

been allowed to take such col-

lateral into account in deter-

mining the amount of a loan.

instructed banks to adopt a

general credit policy that

meant "no granting of any kind

of credit without studying the

financial position of any client

thoroughly. We have even mentioned what to study in the

the central bank had also

said.

Even if he (the borrower)

ternational links. The cabinet in December passed a bill allowing citizens of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates to own up to 49

per cent of Kuwaiti banks... This bill and proposals to allow non-GCC banks to own up to 40 per cent of local banks would need parliamentary approval.

Iran buys five oil tankers

TEHRAN (R) - Iran has placed an order with a South Korean company five oil tankers at a cost of \$490 million and is negotiating for 16 more, an official was quoted Sunday as

Hamshahri newspaper quoted the general director of the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC), Mohammad Souri, as saying the order had been placed with a South Korean company which will provide the total financing as a

.Sweiffyeh.

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He said the loan would be repaid from NITC profits and through selling old Iranian tankers in 10 years.

The five tankers have total capacity of 1.5 million tonnes. An oil ministry spokesman Saturday identified the Korean company to Reuters as the South Korean Daewoo Group. which has a shipbuilding unit, Daewoo Shipbuilding and

Heavy Machinery Ltd. "In order to feed Bandar Abbas refinery, operational in two years time with 240,000 barrels per day capacity. Iran plans to buy six more 80,000 tonne tankers," he was quoted as saying.

"In order to reclore old tankers whose effective life is going to end soon. MITC will buy another five tankers of 280,000 to 300,000 tonnes and also another five tankers of 150,000 to 160,000 tonnes," he

He said NITC's revenue in recent years stood between \$300 to \$700 million and its profit between \$1 million and \$4.5 million.

53.11 billion dirhams (\$14.47





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S. Africa appeals to rightists over poll terms; 34 die in violence

JOHANNESBURG (R) -The South African government and the ANC appealed to rightists Monday to accept the transition to democtacy and defuse tensions after at least 34 people died in weekend vio-

The two main political power bloes began separate talks in Johannesburg and Pretoria on terms for settling the constitutional dispute in which conservative groups are boycotting the country's first all-race election on April 26-28.

We urge them to do South Africa a facour and not to plunge this country into a crisis, chief ANC negotiator Cyril Ramaphosa said at the start of the Johannesburg

Police reported at least 54 deaths in political and factional violence over the weekend, including the massacre of 15 African National Congress (ANC) supporters preparing for a voter-education meeting in the rural town of Creighton. Other deaths followed a rally in Natal province, homeland of the Zulus, addressed by conservative Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

At least six people died. many were injured and 24 houses were burned down in clashes around Johanneshurg.

Government Minister Roelf Meyer urged the Freedom Alliance of black and white parties boycotting the election in accept a package of compromise proposals being ham-mered out with the ANC at a meeting of the multi-party

At Thres

and quake,

L.A. faces

walls of mud

LOS ANGELES (R) - A

fierce Pacific storm brought

The government wants to plead with the leaders of the alliance to accept these proposals as they are. Let all South Africans participate in the democratic process," he said.

Alliance Chairman Rowan Cronje told Reuters he was not optimistic, but had not given up hope: "I don't think it's all dead, but I wouldn't put it beyond that."

He said before a meeting of the Alliance Executive Committee in Presoria shat the right-wing parties, including Mr. Buthelezi's Zulu-dominated Inkatha, had only been given the new proposals late Saturday.

Mr. Buthelezi realfirmed at Sunday's ralle that he planned to boycoit the election, which will be the first to include the country's five-to-one black

He repeated his demand for key constitutional concessions including regional autonomy and recognition of the Zulu monarchy as his price for participation in the poll.

The multi-party negotiating council dominated by the ANC and the government met on the outskirts of Johanneshurg to formalise constitutional amendments offered last week.

Negotiators agreed to reopen registration for the election until March 7 and to approve separate ballots for national and regional govern-

They also proposed to create a framework for a so-called Afrikaner Volkstaat (homeland) Council to represent whites seeking self-

violence and mistrust.

determination in a separate

Communist Patty negotiator Joe Slovo told Reuters the new deadline for parties to join the election race was final.

The independent Human Rights Contmission says violence in South Africa has killed 14.000 people since February 1990, when President F.W. De Klerk started dismantling apar-

A homb damaged an apartment building occupied by black and white residents in central Pietermaritzhurg early Monday, but police said no one was hurt in the blast. Police Colonel Martin

Leonard told reporters the damage was caused by an explosive device other than a hand-grenade, but said police had not yet identified the type of explosive. Ahout 311 bomb explosions

mainly in Transvaal province this year have been attributed hy police to right-wing movements opposed to the dismantling of apartheid and plans for a watershed all-race election in

The latest explosion, which happened at about 2.15 a.m. and shattered windows and damaged the fover of the block, followed a tense weekend in the Natal province stronghold of Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mongosuthu Buthelezi's Zulu people,

Earlier in the weekend, fighting erupted outside Pietermaritzburg after Mr. Buthelezi had addressed a rally of Inkatha supporters.

At least one man was killed and another was seriously

NEWS IN BRIEF

LOME (R) — The final phase of Togo's political transition to multi-party democracy culminated with a series of attacks on

polling stations during Sunday's second round parliamentary

elections. Military observers and the West African country's

Fors 93 security force drawn from the police and gendarmeries

were unable to prevent the violence. Togolese officials and

electoral observers said gangs of youths ransacked six polling

stations in Haho district near the town of Notse, 90 kilometres

north of Lome, and 14 stations in two opposition districts in

the central town of Sokode. Ballot boxes were burned at one

polling station in Lome. but elsewhere electoral observers said

voting passed off without serious incident. A few people were

arrested in Lome for using stolen voting cards. The vote, in 24

will complete Togo's first multi-party parliament to share

power with military president, Gnassingbe Eyadema, head of

state since 1967. Whoever wins control of parliament will hold

the balance of power under the constitution, but will also

inherit a mass of economic problems and a legacy of political

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (AP) — Maya

Indian rebels came out of the jungle again Sunday. But this

time they came for peace talks that they hope will lead to land

and political reforms. Escorted by Red Cross vans and a police

car. at least 18 rebels, including leader Subcomandante

Marcos, arrived at the main plaza of San Cristobal De Las

Cases, the town they seized on New Year's Day. Hundreds of

Red Cross workers, civilian peace workers and military police

armed only with truncheons surrounded the 16th century

Roman Catholic cathedral in the heart of the city where the

talks will begin Monday. Government peace negotiator Manuel Camacho Solis and Roman Catholic Bishop Samuel

Ruiz travelled to the rebels' Lacandon Forest strongholds east

of here Sunday morning to escort the leaders back to this city

of 75,000 people. They sped into the plaza past a cordon of

peace workers holding back tightly packed spectators, a few of

whom cheered for the rebels. The rebels all had their faces

hidden with the traditional ski masks and three had broad-

ASUNCION (AP) — Georges Watin, whose attempt to

assassinate President Charles De Gaulle was portraved in the

novel and movie The Day Of The Jackal, was buried Sunday.

Mr. Watin. 71. died Saturday of a heart attack at his home in

Asuncion. A small group of friends attended the burial at a

cemetery outside the capital. Algerian-born. Watin fought

against the Algerians' war for independence and opposed

Gen. De Gaulle's decision in July 1962 to grant the North

African land its sovereignty. Mr. Watin was head of "Mission

Three." a branch of the secret army organisation. or OAS,

and among nine assassins organised to kill Gcn. De Gaulle.

On Aug. 22, 1962, bullets shattered the windows of Gen. De

Gaulle's limousine as it drove through a Paris suburb, but the

president was unscathed. In a 1990 interview. Mr. Watin said

the initial plan was to "kidnap him. bring him to justice before

a military court-martial, and only then execute him" for

supporting Algeria's independence. But the plotters expected

Gen. De Gaulle's drive through Petit Clamart would be at

sunset, according to an almanac. It was still daylight when the

president arrived, prompting the decision to shoot him on the

spot. Mr. Watin told the Spanish daily El Pais. The assassina-

tion attempt was the basis for Frederick Forsythe's 1971 novel.

The Day Of The Jackal, which was made into a movie. Mr.

Watin was condemned to death in absentia in 1963 but

pardoned by an amnesty law in 1968. After fleeing to

Switzerland and later to Spain, he settled in Paraguay in 1965.

DHAKA (R) - Tens of thousands of Baneladeshis walked

harefoot to a national memorial in the capital Monday to

honour people killed in a 1952 language dispute in former East

Pakistan that helped spawn Bangladesh. Hundreds of police

kept security tight as streams of people lay floral wreaths at the

Shaheed Minar Memorial near Dhaka University beginning at

one minute past midnight. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia

and her ministers were the first to arrive, followed by leaders

of opposition parties, students, teachers, cultural groups, and

ordinary men, women and children. On this day 42 years ago.

police shot dead six people, including four students, for

Bangladesh honours language martyrs

drimmed Indian hats with multicoloured ribbons.

Georges Watin, 'the Jackal', dies

Mexican rebels arrive for talks

ncts where no candidate won a majority in the first round

Attacks mar Togo's parliamentary poll

wounded in clashes as the Inkatha crowd headed home front the rally through territory cantralled by the ANC. Meanwhile, the black Pan

Africanisi Congress (PAC) threatened Sunday to renew its guerrilla war against white domination if South Africa's land is not returned to blacks. the South African Press Association said. PAC President Clarence

Makwetu told about 5.tXXt supporters at a rally in Cape Town's Khayelitsha shantytown that the return of land taken from blacks during almost 35tt years of white domination would be the focal point of the party's campaign for the first all-race election in

"If we must go hack to the hush to reclaim our land then that is what we will do." he

The PAC, which fought white rule with the slogan "one settler, one bullet," recently suspended its armed campaign.

Opinion polls indicate that the PAC will win less than five per cent support in the April 26-28 election, which will be the first to include the five-toone black majority.

But PAC officials insist their support exceeds the backing for African National congress which usually polls between 50 and 70 per cent support in opinion surveys.

The PAC, which broke away from the ANC before both parties were banned by the white government 34 years ago, said it would implement race and gender employment

U.N. backs plan that angered Aristide

UNITED NATIONS (R) -The United Nations, in an effort to jump-start the failed Haitian peace process, has im-plicity backed a plan that angeres exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Council Sunday made clear he and his envoy for Haiti. Dante Caputo, favoured a plan put forward by Haiti legislators in Washington this weekend and backed by the United States.

Mr. Aristide has rejected the new plan, which does not specifically call for his return and eives no timetable for any of its objectives, although it contains most of the points in the U.N.brokered Governors Island accords of last June.

Mr. Aristide fears the milittary that ousted him in a 1991 coup, will continue to run the country in all but name.

France. Canada and Venezuela. who with the United States form a U.N. advisory group on Haiti, so far have been more sympathetic than Washington to Mr. Aristide's

Secretary-General Bouttos Ghali in a letter to the Security



South African government chief negotiator Rolf

Meyer receives a blessing from a witch-doctor.

after they slaughtered a goat and sprinkled him

VIENNA (R) - North Korea.

under potential threat of U.N.

economic sanctions, expects to

set a date for inspection of its

nuclear facilities after further

talks with the United States

this week. a U.N. official said

over the weekend saving they

would have more talks with the

Americans this week then set a

date for inspections and issue

visas." International Atomic

Energy Agency (IAEA) spokesman David Kyd said.

IAEA Director-General

Hans Blix was expected to

brief the nuclear watchdoe

agency's 35-member board of

governors on the situation later Monday at IAEA Headquar-

The 120-member agency is

responsible for applying safe-

guards measures to ensure no

signatory of the nuclear non-

proliferation treaty (NPT) embarks on nuclear weapons

development, as North Korea

is suspected of doing.

The secretive Communist state flatly denied the charge.

ped its arguments last Tuesday

and agreed to inspection of

seven declared nuclear sites.

the IAEA board of governors

was set to report it to the U.N.

Security Council, raising the

But until North Korea drop-

ters in Vienna.

"We had a telex from them

Because of available flights, the earliest our inspectors can now leave for North Korea is by the middle of this week." spokesman Hans Meyer said Sunday. Officials said last week that

the hoard would have been more assured of North Korea's intention to play ball with the agency if inspectors were on site by the time of the board of governors meeting, but they were prepared to be patient. IAEA experts are due to carry out tests, change film in

monitorine cameras and check seals at the sites, mostly at Yongbyon. IIII kilometres north of Pyongyang.
The inspections can only

check whether any nuclear material has been diverted to non-peaceful uses. The agencvis knowledge of North Korea's nuclear industry would thus be back to where it was before the row erupted 12 months ago, officials-said:

The agreement does not include access to two mysterious sites, also at Yonghyon, where the United States and other prospect of an embargo. Western governments suspect
The agency had hoped that, following the accord. Pyon-

with its gall. Mrs. Meyer was on

Any further progress on per-suading North Korea to allow inspections here largely hinges on talks between Pyongyang and Washington.

Earlier Monday, North Korea denied it had agreed to even rounne checks of its declared nuclear facilities, and warned the United States not to misrepresent last week's

"This was largely directed at the United States, warning them not to over-construe the agreement." Mr. Kyd said of the hardline statement issued by the North Korean Foreign Ministry. The statement recalled that

North Korea had threatened in 1993 to quit the NPT over demands for "special inspections" of sites it insisted were military facilities unconnected with any nuclear programme.

Any attempt to enlarge last Tuesday's accord to include the two suspect sites would be "tantamount to an attempt to drive (Pyongyang) out of the treaty." it said. "If the United States again

put the brakes on a solution to the nuclear issue, attaching an unreasonable condition... or resorting to pressure, it would be impossible to implement the points already agreed upon he-tween the DPRK (North Korea) and the IAEA.

Kohl's CDU seeks to steer a winning course

HAMBURG (AFP) - Germany's Christian Democratie Union (CDU) tries this week to chart a course to ensure that the party and its leader Chancellor Helmut Kohl will be safely returned to power in October.

Eight months ahead of federal legislative elections, the CDU begins a three-day congress in this snow-bound northern port city Monday with all the signs against it.

Unemployment is at a record four million, the prospect of a major strike by industrial workers looms closer by the day, and the opinion polls have for months been favouring the Social Democrat Party (SPD) opposition.

Latest polls give the SPD 37.5 per cent, against 34 per cent for the CDU and its Bavarian sister party. Mr. Kohl himself was credited with 26 per cent of preferences Sunday, against 35 per cent for SPD leader Rudolf Scharping, by the Forsa Social Research Institute. But Forsa head Manfred

Gueliner and Mr. Kohl himself point out that twice before, in 1987 and in 1990, he came out from behind in the polls only to win in the end. The chancellor and the party have time to mobilise, and analysts say it is much too early to write them

In an opening speech to the 1,000 or so delegates, Mr. Kohl is expected to issue a call to arms to try to Scotch what he regards as a premature defeatism based only on the pundit's predictions.

Centre-piece of the congress

is a new basic programme of nearly 100 pages entitled freedom and responsibility, defining Christian Democracy in a united Germany today, which delegates are to fine-tune and adopt Tuesday and Wednes-

It tackles such issues as European integration, and deelares attachment to "free development of the individual" and an "ecological and social market economy."

For a classie mainstream party of the right, the chosen themes of debate, revolving around ideas of peace, freedom and the environment, apper to want to steal clothes from the Social Democrats, at a time when the SPD, also bent on victory on Oct. 16, appears more moderate than for years.

WELLINGTON (AFP) Pine trees have the potential to make New Zealand one of the world's richest countries per capita, according to a new study reported in the Sunday Times. Piers McLaren of the state-funded Forest Research. Industry told the newspaper that forestry could put wealthinto the hands of people whose a only assets were land and time: "Radiata pine is arguably one of the most profitable crops: that can be grown over much of New Zealand," he wrote in the Radiata Pine Growers Manual. Cost-benefit studies show rates of return of seven to nine per cent, higher than inflation, and prices are still rising. The report said that last year mature trees were selling for 700 to 800 New Zealand dollars (\$402 to \$459) each and one hectare (2.47 acres)-of 28-year-old, well-sited and tended trees were worth \$140,000. A stand of five to 10 hectares of mature radiata was likely to be worth more than a 500-hectare sheep and beef farm, the report said. Radiate pine accounts for about 90 per eent of existing and new plantations because it can yield up to 50 cubic metres (155 cubic yards) of wood per year. Mr. McLaren was quoted as saying that New Zealand not seen such a rapid and fundamental change in land use since the late 19th century....

Indian schoolboy... takes parents to court

NEW DELHI (AFP) - A 15-year-old schoolboy has

taken his parents to court for trying to force him into marriage with a girl a year younget in return for a dowry. Rajeev Tanwar moved an application before the Delhi High Court Sunday, saying he was too young to get married and asking the court to stop the wedding. The marriage would be illegal under Indian law, which stipulates that a boy should be at least 21 years' old and a girl 18 for marriage; Under-age marriages are however rampant, with weddings normally arranged by pa-rents after a matching of horoscopes and negotiations over a dowry from the bride's family, "I want to state that I do not want to marry now as I am only junior school student in a New Delhi suburb, said in his petition. "I want to study and have a career. "My parents and relatives are marrying me off de-spite my appeals. I request you to help me stop the marriage. otherwise injustice will be done to me," the teenager-said. Rajeev went to court with the help of his school principal, who was told of his predicament by classmates in whom he had confided. His father, Chaudhry Likhi Ram Tanwar, has already printed and distributed invitation cards for the wedding set for Thursday. A wealthy transporter and landowner, Tanwar wanted his sop to get married and follow the family business, the petition before the court said. Rajcev's marriage to Sunita, 14, was arranged last year. The girl's family had promised a Maruti-Suzuki car — a middle-class status symbol in India - and 100,000 rupees (\$3,333) in cash as a dowry, which also is outlawed, but widely practiced by orthodox Hindus, "I am against such a system," said Rajeev, who appeared in court Sunday to file his petition. "That is why I picked up courage to approach some people who could help me." Judge

Hong Kong population hits 6 million

ing on the petition.

R.K. Sharma reserved his rul-

HONG KONG (R) - The population of Hong Kong, one of the most crowded territories on earth, passed six millionthe census and statistics department said Monday. The department estimated the population rose two per cental 1993 to 6.(119,900 at the end of the year. Births accounted for only 35 per cent of the 117.800. increase last year, with people arriving in the British colony from outside making up the rest. Hong Kong's population fell to only a few hundred thousand during the Japanese occupation of World War II, ... But it later soared mainly due to immigration for China. The territory, due to return to Chinese rule in 1997, crams its increasingly prosperous. population into just 1.037 square kilometres, about twothirds the size of greater London which has a population of about 6.7 million.

Chinese province warns against ethnic unrest

BEIJING (R) - Leaders in China's far-western Qinghai province have been ordered to step up vigilance against ethnic saboteurs following anti-Chinese Muslim riots crushed

by the army last year.
The Qinghai Communist Party committee decree, reported in Qinghai Daily editions seen Monday in Beijing. was a rare admission of persistent ethnic unrest in the vast

Muslims and other ethnic groups in Oinghai. Xinjiang. Gansu. Ningxia and Sichuan have rioted often in recent years to oppose heavy-handed Chinese rule.

Many underground cells advocate secession, a sentiment that has grown with the rise of Islamic nationalism across Central Asia, and raised alarm in Beijing.

"All leaders and the broad masses of party members, officials and public must maintain a high degree of vigilance and clear-headed understanding." the committee said. "We must resolutely tackle and handle any behaviour that destroys stability."

The Qinghai Party organ. which directs the local government, said the huge province remains at risk of instability despite the military suppression of regionwide anti-Chinese protests last year and the Oct. 7 storming by paramilitary petlice of Dongguan Mosque in the Qinghai capital.

"Even after we legally suppressed the disturbances of a tiny faction of evil-doers last October, small numbers of evil-doers are still carrying out incessant acts of sabotage." it

"They start rumours, whip up popular emotions and use all kinds of despicable means in futile attempts to destroy our province-wide struggle for ethnic unity and our hard-won peaceful and unified rule." it

Chinese sources said more than 30 Muslims arrested after the Dongguan assault were still awaiting trial hut that about 40 escaped, including a prominent Muslim leader. Word of the decree came a

day after Xinhua News Agency confirmed parts of a Reuter report about an army massacre. of rival Muslim groups in neighbouring Ningxia province. The official agency affirmed

that four men were sentenced to long prison terms, but left unmentioned that the defendants were Muslim cleries who were hattling to head Ningxia's Zheherenye sect or that Chinese troops violently crushed the feud.

Chinese sources told Reuters last week that Paramilitary People's Arnted Police guttned down 20 Muslines in May, 1993, crushing a violent twoyear-old hattle to succeed the late Zheherenye leader Ma

Four sect leaders were con-

victed of murder and hooliganism and sentenced to long prison terms in what one Chinese' source said was a warning to Muslims that Beijing would not tolerate religious instability

Eighteen other Muslims received shorter-prison terms. Xinhua dismissed the religious fued as nothing more than gang fighting and said 49 people had been killed since the feud erupted in May, 1992. Meanwhile. China doubled

or tripled the jail sentences of 14 Tibetan nuns because they sang a "counter-revolutionary song in their prison cells. officials said Monday. The officials, from the Tibet

Justice Bureau and the Reform-Through-Labour (prison) Administration, confirmed hy telephone a report by the human-rights monitoring group Tihet Information Network (TINI.

The report said the nuns had their sentences increased for singing the pro-independence song on a tape which was then secretly circulated in the Himalavan region.

Confirmation of the stiff punishment — one sentence was increased to 17 years comes as Beijing is under intense Western pressure for its human rights record.

The Himalayan region. which Beijing insists is an integral part of Chinese territory, is periodically shaken by separatist protests which China firmly puts down each time with police or army action. Beijing has repeatedly vowed to crush the "splittist movement" which it accuses the region's exiled spiritual leader, the Nobel Prize winning Dalai Lamu, of encouraging.

TIN said all the nuns were in Drapchi Prison for taking part in pro-independence demonstrations in Lhasa since 1989. The official from the Re-

form-Through-Lahour Administration said one nun had her jail term increased from five years to 14 years and another from nine years to 17 years. Both officials confirmed a total of 14 nuns had been

punished. China is under strong pressure from the West to improve its human rights record. The

issue of Tibet is specifically mentioned in U.S. President Bill Clinton's executive order stating he would only extend China's key most favoured nation (MFN) trading privileges if there was human rights prog-

China last month freed two Tibetan political prisoners in a move described by the United States as "a step in the right direction."

The London-based TIN said it had a tape recording of the nuns singing their song.

It said the tape, on which each nun announces her name and dedicates a song or poem to her family or supporters. had circulated in Tibet

more misery to disaster-weary southern California Sunday. triggering mudslides: flooding roads, trapping residents in their homes and causing three deaths in freeway accidents. Drenching rains took their heaviest toll on the celebrity enclave of Malihu, where hillsides stripped of vegetation in last fall's wildfires collapsed, sending torrents of mud rushing into the garages and ground floors of several million-dollar mansions. The intensity of the pre-

dawn storm caught emergency officials by surprise, and they called on residents to evacuate voluntarily if their homes were in immediate danger. Several dozen people fled to

48 (\$

higher ground, but most homeowners chose to stay put. hattling with shovels and sandbags to stave off the flow. Floodwaters rose to the door handles of some cars lining the streets of ritzy Malibu neighbourhoods.

A man driving a blue Mercedes had to be pulled out by Los Angeles County Lifeguards when he stalled in a muddy quagmire. The car was later buried nearly to its roof as mud poured down from nearby

Fire Department crews rushed in to rescue a family of three trapped in their inundated carbon canyon home. A mother and her two children were carried to safety when a flooded-out bridge left them stranded in their car. No in-

juries were reported. The latest storm, which unleashed much of its fury before dawn, caused havoc on a freeway system already crippled by last month's magnitude-6.8 earthquake.

Rain was blamed for nearly 75 traffic accidents, two of them fatal. One man died when he was thrown from his car after it spun out of control on a Los Angeles freeway, and two others were killed when a truck jackknifed and hit their car in Orange County, highway patrol officials said.

Sections of the busy Pacific Coast Highway were turned into rivers of mud. Bulldozers worked to divert the flow as it threatened dozens of exclusive homes. Huge boulders crashed onto some mountain roads,

making them impassable. Power was knocked out briefly to more than 1.600 homes in mostly exclusive sections of Beverly Hills and Santa Monica.

In Malibu, where many Hoi-

lywood celebrities live in

demanding Bengali as a state language co-equal with the beachfront houses, some official language Urdu in what was then East Pakistan. homeowners stood by with picks and shovels.

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TON (AFF) 8 JBF board members quit Knicks' defence stifles Bulls ve the potents By Aleen Bannayan

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ording to a to the Jordann Times and the second to the Jordan Basketball federation (JBF) Monday announced their joint resignation after enconciable differences that seemed to have planed is a result of the meaning of the months.

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The profitable of the months are profitable

trees were a concilable differences that we 300 New Zer worked hard to overcome, but 10 \$459) each to no avail. JBF Vice-12.47 acres President Samir Janakat told well-sited the Jordan Times.

well-sited the Jordan Times.

"We therefore decided to stand of five is give the minister a fresh chance nature radiant to appoint a new board that worth more the will hopefully better serve the sheep and game," he said.

Port said. Rac According to informed sources, the "irreconcilable sisting and a differences" were mainly because it can be ween JBF President Isam and spokesman Fa'eq of word. whic metes Anuman Abu Halimeh.

New Zealand nations and allowed Al Husanse in hand sein and Al Husan clubs to sange in hand sein and Al Husan clubs to lange in land seein and see after the land tegister their players after the te 19th center register their players choolboy time during which all clubs registered their players for competitions they would take part n during the upcoming season.

The JBF's troubles seem to HI (AFP) have begun after the national schoolbor team's participation.
Asian championships in which the team returned home after a ree him into the team returned thing results. girl a year year Preparations for the chama downy har pionships including travel ex-Delhi High for the 'cash-strapped' federation

over JD 50,000. After the team's 10th place finish and return, the JBF allowed its Russian coach to name a new national team made up of the younger, less experienced

The veterans of the game voiced their dissatisfaction at that, and threatened to boycott the JBF's annual All-Star Tournament, usually held during Ramadan.

Last week, the JBF announced the cancellation of the tournament, which proved to be a bad omen as it would have been the first of the sea-

son's competitions. Eleven board members make up the JBF, which last year saw the election of 6 members representing competing clubs, they are: Samir Janakat, Qasem Al Abed, Farid Allan, Eid Al Mulki, Jamal Zaki and Hashem Al Sukhni. The last three did not sign the mass resignation

The appointed members are Ammari, Abu Halimeh. treasurer Wasim Zu'mot. Majed Majalli and Sadeq Havek.

The JBF, one of the most active of the Kingdom's sports federations, seems to have been hit by a series of rows nad differences among board members for the past two years — a fact that threatens the development of the game, as set programmes and schedules seem never to be met and most regular competitions are often put on hold or cancelled because of recurrent postpone-

A previous JBF board had also submitted their mass resignations in December 1992 afwith the Ministry of Youth and

ter former President Awwad Haddad quit over differences the Jordan Olympic Commit-

The Nets have won 13 of their last 17 while the Bullets have lost nine of their last 11. New Jersey's Armon Gilliam led all scorers with 24 points. In Milwaukee, Shaquille O'Neal scored 38 points and pulled down 14 rebounds as the Orlando Magic beat the Bucks 109-104. Dennis Scott added 18 points and Nick

time this season.

over the Homets.

Eric Leckner of the Philadelphia 76ers tleftt and George Lyncb of the Los Angeles Lakers battle for a rebound during their match. The Lakers defeated the Sixers 107-95 (AFP photo)

earned their fourth straight win.

Vin Baker and Todd Day each scored 20 points for the Bucks, who have lost three of their last four games.

At Los Angeles, Sedale Threatt poured in 21 points to pace the Lakers to a 107-95 triumph

over the Philadelphia 76ers. The Lakers, who won for the first time in four games, extended their great western forum

win streak against the Sixers to 10 games. In Portland, Clifford Robinson scored 24 points and Rod Strickland added 18 to lift the Trail Blazers to a 102-93 win over the Boston

Boston has lost eight straight for the first time since 1979. Portland had not beaten Boston

Dino Radja scored 24 points and Dec Brown had 20 to lead the Celtics, who had a 10-2 run to close the game that made the final score appear

EUROPEAN SOCCER ROUNDUP

Russia's Egorova gains 6th career gold; Wiberg wins Sweden's 1st

LILLEHAMMER, Norway (AP) — A record-tying sixth gold medal did not dull the thrill of Olympic triumph for Lyubov Egorova, and Pernilla Wiberg raised Sweden from the depths of despair by winning gold on the Alpine slopes

Also on the 10th day of the games, Austria's Emese Hunyady, silver medalist in the 3,000, upset the favourite in the women's 1,500-metre speedskating race.

With six days left to compete, Russia had a total of 17 medals, followed by Norway with 16 and Italy with 14.

"It feels good to be the best," Egorova, Russia's jubilant "ice bird." said after anchoring her team to victory in the women's 20-kilometre cross-country skiing relay.

The 27-year-old Egorova thus became the second triple gold medalist of the 17th Winter Olympics, joining Norwegian speedskater medalist Johann Olav Koss. Adding the three Albertville golds to the three she won here. Egorova tied the record haul of six won by Soviet speedskater Lydia Skoblikova at the 1960 and 1964 games.

Egorova has now won gold or silver in all nine Olympic races in which she had skated in the last two years.

Wiberg gave Sweden its first medal of the 17th winter games by demonstrating her slalom wizardry and winning the twoday women's combined,

"I know it's the first gold medal for Sweden, and I hope this will improve the team's morale and bring us other medals," Wiberg said.

won silver behind Wiberg.

The combined event also restored a shred of honour to the Swiss Alpine ski team. which had not medaled in the first nine days of the Lillehamgian quartet. mer Games., Vreni Schneider, Raisiong her ski poles in the overall World Cup leader.

At Hamar's speedskating arena. Hunyady thwarted the hopes of Germany's Gunda Niemann to rebound from a fall in the 3,000 and win her third career gold medal. Niemann, double gold medalist at Albertville, was further frustrated in Monday's 1,500 when Russia's Svettana Fedotkina, knocked her from second into third place late in the

settle for bronze. The cross-country win gave Russia its eighth gold medal of these games, as many as host Norway. But the silver medal in speedskating put the Russians into the overall lead of

competition. Niemann had to

the medals race. On a per capita basis though. Norway was way ahead. There are only 4.3 million Norwegians to 150 million

Until Wiberg's victory, the repeated chants of "Heia Norge" — go Norway — had been most grating on Swedens. a Scandinavian neighbour and a onetime winter sports power with double Norway's popula-

No Swede cheered more Monday than King Carl XVI Gustaf, who thrust his fist intro the air as Wiberg sped across the finish line on her final slatom run.

Russia had more hopes for gold in Norway's ice dancing finale. Two Russian pairs were in the top three after the compulsory and original dance programmes. But 1984 gold medalists Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean of Britain, making a comeback to the Olympics, were tied for first. along with Maia Usova and Alexander Zhulin,

In Monday's cross-country relay, the Russians needed Egorova's anchor leg to overtake the pace-setting Norwe-

victory, Egorova acknow-

ledged the cheers of the capacity crowd of 31,000 in the Birkebeineren ski stadium. It didn't matter that most of the flags being waved from the stand were Norwegian.

"Coming into the stadium was a fantastic experience." said Egorova, who overtook Norwegian anchor Anita Moen a kilometre into the final 5k

Russia clocked 57 minutes, 12.5 second for the gold. Norwaya took the silver 30.1 seconds behind, and Italay, paced by a strong anchor performance by Stefania Belmondo, clinched the bronze, 1!:30.1 behind.

Egorova is entered in two more races here and has a chance to overtake the all-time medal winner - Raisa Smetanina, a cross-country skier who competed for the Soviet Union and the unified team. Smetanaina's 10 career metals included four golds, Egorova has three silvers in addition to the six golds.

At the Hafjell sialom course. Sweden's Wiberg moved from fifth after Sunday's downhill portion and withstood a challenge by Schneider in Monday's second slalom run to win by just .13 of a second. Her aggregate time was 3 minutes, 5.15 second for the slalom and

Slovakia's Alenka Dovian won the combined bronze medal.

Katja Seizinger of Germany. the downhill gold medalist and leader after Sunday's combined downhill, straddler a blue police halfway down the 59-gate Hafjell course and was disqualified.

"I knew I didn't have much of a chance in slalom." Seizinger said, "It's 50-50 that I miss a gate, so I took some risks... I was surprised with my slalom performance for as long as it

NEWS IN BRIEF

Marlin wins Daytona 500 by car length

DAYTONA BEACH, Flonda (R) - Sterling Marlin held off Emic Irvan to win the Daytooa 500 motor race Sunday. Matlin's Chevrolet outdisfanced Irvan's Ford by a car length. Terry Labonte and Jeff Gordon, both in Chevrolets, finished third and fourth. Marlin, who earned 253,575, covered the 200 laps around the 2.5 mile (four km) Daytona International Speedway in three hours. II minutes, 10 seconds. A speed of 156.931 mph (252.549 kph).

Gullit set for Dutch comeback

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Soccer star Ruud Gullit is set to make his peace with Dutch coach Dick Advocaat - just in time for the World Cup. Advocant has announced that Gullit was ready to return to the Dutch side May 23. He added that Gullit, who plays for ftalian club Sampdoria, has agreed to return without any pre-conditions. Gullit, aged 31, fell out with Advocaat in June 1993 and quit international football. Holland qualified without him but Gullit vowed he would only return if Johan Cruyff took control of Holland's World Cup campaign. That looked sure to happen until Barcelona manager Cruyff and the Dutch Football Federation were involved in a clash over money and Cruyff, who had been expected to replace Advocaat, withdrew his World Cup candidacy. Gullit has won 64 caps for Holland since 1981 and scored 17 goals. He had previously tetired from international football in September 1992 after criticising the side's style of play but had returned after a four-month absence.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF A TANNAH HIRSCH

AN IMPOSSIBLE ASSIGNMENT

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Opening lead: Queen of †
"Quite remarkable," enthused the
kibitzer "To make his contract de-clarer had tu surrender n trick in a
suit where there were no losers and

avoid losing a trick in a suit where there were two!" This was the hand that occasioned the ebulkence. Two-suited hands are not han-died well by a takeout double, so West elected to cue-bid four clubs. While the hand was somewhat light in terms of high cards, there was no disputing its track-taking shilts. North's raise to five clubs was sound at any vulnerability and West judged well not in compete further-East would not have passed with any reasonable holding to the majurs.

After the normal lead of the queen of spades, declarer could count 10 tricks—two spades, a damend and sever clubs. Since the acc of hearts was certainly with West, the only hope for an 11th trick lay to return a long diamond. The setting up a long diamond. The problem was so keep East off play while accomplishing that, surec the moment East gained the lead a heart shift would be declarer's

demise.
At first glance that might seem an Af first glance that might seem an impossible assignment, but declarer found an elegant solution. The key was in allowing West's queen of spades to win the first trick!

West shifted to a diamond, but declarer was equal to the task. Dummy's ace of diamonds won the trick and declarer discarded two dismonds from hand on the are and king of spades. A diamond was ruffed high, the queen of clubs was overtaken with the king and another diamond was ruffed high. The ten of clubs to the jack was followed by diamond was rulled high. The ten of clubs to the jack was followed by another diamond rull, setting up a long card. The three of clubs to the six drew the last enemy lang while providing the entry to dummy to discard a heart on the established diamond. Making five odd!

Tel.: 634144 | Cinema

Leaders hold their own as rivals apply pressure PARIS (AFP) — The leaders Fortunato earned the home home clash in the derby against seven players were booked.

Anderson contributed 15 for the Magic, who

NEW YORK (R) - Patrick Ewing scored 20

points and got 18 rebounds as the New York

Knicks clamped down the defence on the

Chicago Bulls for an 86-68 victory late Sunday.

the Bulls and the lowest by a New York

opponent since the Knicks held Indiana to 64

"From the defensive standpoint we pretty

much accomplished what we had to do and it

was just a great win for us," said New York

John Starks added 16 points for the Knicks,

"We played aggressively at the defensive end

The New York bench outscored Chicago's

Scottie Pippen scored 25 and B.J. Armstrong

In Denver, Mahmoud Abdut Rauf had 19

The Nuggets, who trailed by as many as

seven in the third, outscored the hawks 14-3 in

the final 4:19 of the game to win their third

The loss by Atlanta (35-16) and the Knieks

win over Chicago (34-16) left New York (36-15)

with the best record in the eastern conference,

to guide the Pacers to a 101-95 victory over his

Schrempf, was 7-for-11 from the field and

13-of-13 from the line. He added 9 rebounds

and 5 assists. Schrempf was held to 6 points.

10 and went over the .500 mark for the first

The Pacers (25-24) have won nine of their last

In Charlotte, Mark Price scored 22 points,

including four in the final 1:02 of overtime, th

lift the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 105-101 victory

Bobby Phills led the Cavs with 23 points.

At New Jersey, Benoit Benjamin scored 18 points on 9-for-9 shooting and added 10 re-

bounds in just three quarters to carry the Nets

to their fifth straight victory, a 122-101

thrashing of the Washington Bullets.

former team, the Seattle Supersonics.

At Indiana, Derrick McKey scored 27 points

McKey, traded before the season for Detlef

straight and ninth in their last 14 games.

points and Reggie Williams 18 to rally the

and that made the offence a lot easier to come

33-15 as Derek Harper scored 13. Anthony

15 for the Bulls, who lost three straight since

the All-Star hreak, tying a season high.

Nuggets past the Atlanta Hawks 97-92.

down and execute," said Starks.

Mason II and Hubert Davis 9.

who avenged a 98-86 loss in December to

Dec. 10, 1985.

coach Pat Riley.

The 68 points represented a season-low for

of the top European leagues resisted pressure from their rivals at the weekend - single goal victories appearing to be the order of the day.
Italian leaders AC Milan. Spanish pacesetters Deportivo

la Coruna, Portugal's top side Benfica and MSV Duisburg of Germany — all topped their divisions after 1-0 wins. Meanwhile in France, run-

away top dub Paris St. Germain didn't score at all. Daniele Massaro scored AC Milan's goal on the stroke of half-time to clinch the serie a leaders' away win at Lazio. A 70,000 crowd turned out to see England international Paul Gascoigne dominate in midfield but he was later to join

three Milan players in the re-

feree's book. Top challengers Juventus were held to a 1-1 away draw against Torino after German Andreas Moeller was sent off just after the half hour following two bookings. It did not stop Juventus's ten men taking the lead through a fine freekick from European Footballer of the Year' Roberto Baggio in the 53rd minute. Daniele

equaliser, catching out goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi with a long-range shot.

Sampdoria, without England international David Platt, joined Juventus on 32 points — six points behind AC Milan after scoring a stylish 3-1 victory over struggling Atalanta. Dutch star Ruud Gullit, who is set to make his peace with the Dutch national side in time for the World Cup, scored two of the Sampdoria goals.

In Spain Deportivo felt the pressure after Saturday wins by both Real Madrid and Barcelona. But they came away with both points from Real Sociedad Sunday thanks to a 72nd minute goal by Ribera.

Barcelona, eliminated from the Spanish Cup by second division Betis and beaten in their last two league matches, took their frustration out on visiting Osasuna by going on a scoring spree. Johan Cruyff's men slammed eight goals past a side which had two men ordered off at half-time -

Romario scoring a hat-trick. Real Madrid also won their

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side a point with a 64th minute Atletico — Morales snatching a winner seven minutes from time.

A last-minute goal from Vitor Paneira gave Benfica their win over Beira Mar and kept them three points clear of rivals sporting in the Portuguese first division. Sporting beat Belenenses 3-0

away Saturday. MSV Duisburg, promoted at

the end of last season, defeated Werder Bremen - courtesy of a 76th minute goal from Peter Koezle. They now have 27 points while Bayern Munich and Kaiserslautern, who both scored away wins, have 26.

Former leaders Eintracht Frankfurt and second-placed Bayer Leverkusen both slumped to surprise defeats.

fn France, Marseille failed to cash-in on Paris St. Germain's goalless draw against Lyon Saturday. Bernard Tapie's side stayed seven points adrift in the title chase after being beaten 1-0 at Bordeaux. A header from Santos after just nine minutes did the damage to Marseille's hopes in a bruising match in which

Paris Saint Germain extended their unbeaten run to 22 games — but were left kicking themselves after dropping a crucial home point. Unbeaten at home all season but without suspended international defender Alain Roche, PSG produced a colourless perform-

Brazilian playmaker Rai. whose future at the club is in doubt after transfer talks linked him to Sao Paulo, increased the speculation by being substituted in the second-half.

Third-placed Auxerre, on 32 points, also failed to close the gap after a 1-1 draw at Lens but sixth-placed Cannes bolstered their hopes of a European berth next season by defeating rivals Montpellier 2-0.

Michael Madar scored seven minutes before the break and Franck Priou added the second - his 13th of the season after 58 minutes.

Belgian midfielder Enzo Scifo got Monaco back on the winning track, scoring in the 15th minute to set his side on the way to a 2-0 win over visitors Sochaux.

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AMMOUN THEATRE Jabal Luweibdeh, Sayegh Com-

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Militants renew warning to Egyptians to withdraw funds

group has issued a "final warning" for bank depositors to withdraw their money and urged foreigners not to side with Egypt's "dictator, fascist" government.

The messages came in a claim of responsibility sen! Sunday by the outlawed Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah to western news agencies for a killing earlier in the day of a plainclothes policeman in southern

Egypt.
"We remind, for the last time, all clients of interest banks that the deadline for them to settle their accounts expires in two days," the group said in its faxed message. It warned that people would "regret" keeping their money in

The group's first warning to withdraw money early this month was based on Islam's prohibition against charging interest. Since then, suspected militants placed homemade bombs outside at least four banks in Cairo. Two went off but caused little damage.

The fax also warned tourists and foreign investors to "remaion neutral and not to side with the dictator, fascist sys-

"We tell them frankly: the stand you are taking is opposed to the Islamic movement and its just rights, and is not in your interest," the warning said. Earlier, the group warned tourists and foreign investors to leave Egypt to avoid getting caught in the violence.

Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah bas claimed responsibility for most attacks on police officers and on foreign tourists in a campaign launched two years ago to replace President Hosni Mubarak's secular government with an Islamic state.

More than 300 people have

mandos stormed the Afghan

embassy Monday night freeing

five schoolboys and killing

three Alghan gunmen who had

held them hostage for nearly

A loud explosion was heard

"It was a successful opera-

Red-beret commandos in

bullet proof vests had earlier

taken up positions on the roof-

top of the two storey Afghan

followed by gunfire inside the

tion," said Interior Secretary

building, witnesses said.

Jamshed Burkhi.

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da 48 (S Esu do Da

been killed, including militants, security forces. Coptic Christians and three foreign

The group claimed responsibility for two recent attacks on foreigners. Last Saturday, four people were wounded in a shooting on a train, and a week ago a bus carrying Romanian workers was fired on. No one was hurt in that incident.

In its claim of responsibility for the policeman's killing Sunday, the Al Gamaa gave the same reason that it did for the train attack - revenge for the sentencing to death of three men convicted of attempting to assassinate Mr. Mubarak.

It said their men were "plot-ting to carry out the death sentence of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in fair revenge for his killing of hundreds and torture of thousands and his stand against Islam."

A military court sentenced two soldiers and a civilian to death last Wednesday for a foiled attempt to assassinate Mr. Mubarak by mining a military airport before a presidential visit in November.

The government has kept the case secret and the militants persistent reference to it is apparently meant to publi-

Bankers said they have not heard of a significant increase in withdrawals since the Gamaa issued its warning to depositors.

Mohammad Kheera, director of security at Bank Misr. said his bank stepped up security after an employee found one of the four bombs next to a telling machine. Explosive experts defused the bomb but the bank has been on the lookout

"We have increased our own security inside the bank and the Ministry of Interior has

Numerous Pakistani govern-

omicers walked in and

ment officials, policemen and

out of the embassy Monday

and held periodic talks with the

kidnappers, but there were no

breakthroughs. Pakistan had

promised food but refused to

give any money.

The gunmen said they did

not belong to any of the feud-

ing Afghan factions, but

wanted to draw attention to

the suffering of Kabul resi-

ing erupted in Kabul on Jan. 1.

expected in Kabul any time

soon because the main road

into Kabul has been blockaded

by the forces of Prime Minister

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who is

trying to oust President Burha-

Mr. Hekmatyar has conde-

mned the kidnapping but has

refused to lift the blockade.

accordiong to Pakistan's state-

nuddin Rabbani.

run news agency.

No major food deliveries are

provided guards for outside the hank," Mr. Kheera told Reu-

He dismissed the threat of an escalation in the Gamaa campuign as "hot air."

The Gamaa said it planted the Bunk Misr bomb and two othes on the same day outside Bank Ahli and a branch of the Central Bank of Egypt because the banks were "usurious monuments which have become huge treasuries for the loot plundered by senior officials from the toiling masses."

Most Egyptian banks offer interest but there are also Islamic banks that treat depositors as shareholders in their investments. The chief mufti of Egypt has given a fatwa (legal ruling) approving some forms of bank interest.

The fourth bomb was outside the Alexandria Kuwait Bank on Feb. 15. It broke the windows of the bank and of two cars parked nearby but again caused no casualties.

The bomb was planted "to make owners of Arab and foreign usurious banks understand that they are targets as much as Egyptian banks and that the deadline also applies to them. the Gamaa said.

Omar Mohanna, assistant Development, brushed off the

think it's ridiculous, people have forgotten the warning. Mr. Mohanna said, "I think the marter was overblown and no one takes them seriously. We have not increased security because we have sufficient measures that have been in force for a long time that we're maintaining

He said his bank has not enforced any policy changes since the militant warning and that none of his depositors had withdrawn their money.

Yemeni leader leaves

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday sees off Yemeni Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh, who on Sunday signed a reconciliation and reform accord to end a sixmonth-old political crisis along with President Ali Abdullah Saleh and 35 other Yemeni leaders (Petra



Saudis launch fund-raising for Jerusalem; Olmert dismisses move as propaganda

Khatib: Funds welcome but have to come through Jordan

Combined agency dispatches

SAUDI ARABIA has launched a campaign to raise funds for the renovation of Islamic holy shrines in occupied Jerusalem, drawing an Israeli response that the Jewish state reserved the right to have the final say in any renovation projects in the holy city. Sheikh Azzam Khatib, head

of the Awgaf Department in Jerusalem, said the Israelis had no role in maintaining the Islamic holy shrines and said the Saudis were welcome to contribute to renovate them, but that al funds have to be channelled through Jordan.

Jordan, from whom Israel occupied East Jerusalem in the 1967 war, has maintained its role as the guardian of the Islamic holy places.

His Majesty King Hussein donated \$8.5 million in 1992 from his personal funds to restore the Dome of the Rock and Al Agsa mosques in Jerusalem. The first phase of the restoration project is expected to be completed this month....

The Saudi campaign to raise funds was reported by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), which said King Fahd had issued instructions to Prince Salman, the emir of Riyadh, to lead a drive through all regions in the kingdom for donations." that will be channelled to rehabilitate and salvage the Islamic shrines in Holy Jerusalem."

Prince Salman will be issuing an appeal to citizens and expatriates to donate funds "to help save the shrines from the threat of ruin as a result of the Israeli measures aimed at obliterating the identity of Arab and Islamic Jerusalem." the agency said.

The prince, a brother of the Saudi monareh, will be announcing the bank account numbers to which the dona-

tions may be directed, the agency said. Jerusalem's Israel mayor. Ehud Olmert, reacting to the Saudi call, said Monday that Israel would have the final say over any renovation projects in the Holy City.

Mr. Olmert. a member of the right-wing Likud Party. dismissed the Saudi fundraising drive as "propaganda," saying he did not believe major repair work was necessary.

"When the Saudi royal fami-

ly wants to, it has other sources

of financing without turning to a fund-raising drive of the type of knocking on everyone's door." Olmert said on Israel "These types of announce-

ments are largely made for their propaganda value."
Mr. Olmert said the Saudis

were welcome to send money. but that Israeli authorities would have the final say over how it was spent. "Under the law, we have the

authority to decide where things are being built, what is being built and what will be renovated within the city limits of Jerusalem," Mr. Olmert

The foreign ministry agreed with Mr. Olmert that he had the final say over any renova-

Sheikh Khatib, director of

told the Associated Press the Israels played no role in runming the sites. "We did not ask permission from the government of Israel

the Islamic Trust of Jerusalem

or the municipality of Jerusalem for any renovations and don't plan to do so in the future," said Sheikh Khatib. Sheikh Khatib also said the Saudis were welcome to contribute but that all funds would have to be channelled through

Jordan. Saudi Arabia has been vying for the right to care for the Muslim holy places in East

Jerusalem. King Fahd, who carries the title of custodian of the holy shrines at Mecca and Medina, had offered in 1992 to donate

millions of dollars to renovate Islamic sites in Jerusalem. King Hussein stepped in and sold a house to finance the multimillion-dollar restoration of the golden dome of the Dome of the Rock that has

become one of the city's symbols. Irish engineers are currently restoring the gilt dome.

British queen visits Amerindians in Guyana

GEORGETOWN (AFF Queen Elizabeth II and he husband Prince Philip Visite an Amerindian settlement south of Guyana's capital Georgetown. The royal counting met with the leader and the village council of the sentement, then attended a Roman Cortellia mass with the Test. ment, then attended a Roman Catholic mass, with the Dule of Edinburgh reading the less son. They will be guests of honour at a reception fosted by British High Commissioner David Johnson in the capital of the former British colony. The queen was to address Gaptina's parliament Monday. She also rived Saturday and is to leave Tuesday to continue her Carib. Tuesday to continue her Carib bean swing. She has already stopped in Anguilla and Dominica and will go to Belize, the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, the Bahamas and Bermuda.

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British royalty abounds in **Swiss Aips**

KLOSTERS. Switzerland (AP) — Britain's Prince Charles wound up a skiing weekend with his two sons, while the Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson, enjoyed the thrills and spills of the snow around her ex-boyfriend's Alpine chalet. Princes William and Henry were due to return to England for the start of school Monday, leaving Prince Charles to continue his holiday. Prince Charles, the heir to the throne, offered numerous "photo-opportunities" on the sun-flooded slopes and on ski lifts, to the delight of journal, ists who were pursuing him at the Klosters resort. British and Swiss newspapers have speciflated that the normally alouf prince wanted to use the weekend to improve his image as he tries to regain the public fry offensive against his estranged wife Princess Diana. Princess Diana, much more cautious on the snow than Prince Charles, will take her sons to the Austrian resort of Harry will soon ski better than tbeir father." ski coach:Bruno Sprecher told the Swiss tabloid Blick. The newspaper reported that Prince Charles had forbidden his sons, ages 11 and 9, to try out the popular sport of surf boarding — a snow-bound skateboard — because it was too dangerous. For the two young princes, it was the first real skiing boliday with their father and the first time they had been to Klosters, in south eastern Switzerland. In south western Switzerland the Duchess of York and her two daughters, Beatrice and Euge. nie, ages 5 and 3, were entire siastic about the superband conditions during the weekend. "We are having wonderful time and my children love skiing." Ms. Fergis son told other tourists in the resort of Verbier. The news paper Blick said "Fergie" and her daughters were staying in the chalet belonging to Paddy

Japan primary schoolers sample 'starvation lunch'

Charles' brother.

McNally. She used to live with

McNaily before she married -

and subsequently separate,

from - Prince Andrew, Prince

TOKYO (R) — In the wake of Japan's disastrous last rice hat vest, one primary school has served up "starvation lunches" to teach children not to take food for granted. For three days this month, pupils at the school in Iwate prefecture. northern Japan, found them selves eating the sort of meal their grandparents would have known in the bleak days of famine after World War IL Instead of normal fare broiled fish and stir-fried vegetables, perhaps, with white rice, milk and sometimes a sweet dessert — youngstets sat down to dried sardines. Flour dumplings in broth and rice mixed with grated radish. millet, or barley. In the old days, especially after the warpeople in this area rarely affine people
white rice and food was
scarce, said school principal
Junichi Suzuki, who thought
up the starvation lunch. We
wanted to teach the children to
appreciate what they bave
particularly after last years
bad harvest, he added.
Teachers at the Ichinoseki
School prepared the days, especially after the wat. Teachers at the Ichinoseki School prepared the pupils beforehand so the new menu did not come as a total shock.

Court acquits Bhutto in second power abuse charge

LAHORE (R) — A Pakistani special court acquitted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Monday of the second of seven charges of abuse of power that were used to sack her threeand-a-half years ago.

"The case is dismissed" said Special Court Judge Munir Sheikh in his brief verdict on the charge that Ms. Bhutto abused her position as prime minister from 1988 to 1990 to allot prime land in the capital. Islamabad. illegally.

The same judge found the prime minister innocent last Saturday of allocating gas distribution licences to friends during her previous term.

That verdict was the first in hearings on corruption charges that have dragged through courts since the accusations were brought shortly after Ms. Bhutto was sacked in August

"I knew that the last regime did not have any case which is why they delayed the proceedines to subject me and my party to persecution." a spokesman quoted Ms. Bhutto

as saying. "I always knew that

I was innocent and... I stand Insufficient evidence had been presented to back the charge, one of seven brought against Ms. Bhurto after then President Ghulam Ishaq Khan sacked her 20-month-old gov-

ernment in 1990 on disputed charges of power abuse, court sources quoted the judge as "Justice. though delayed.

had finally not been denied." Ms. Bhutto's lawyer and former Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan said in an interview. The 287 acres of land near

the centre of Islamabad had in fact never been allotted, a lawyer for the prosecution. Deputy Attorney General Sheikh Magbool Ahmad, said in answer to a question by the judge, the sources said. Another of the cases is due

to come before the special court on Saturday, and Mr. Ahsan said he was confident of a third acquittal. Special courts set up to try

Mr.s Bhutto and several of her cabinet colleagues were empowered to disqualify them from parliament for up to seven Ms. Bhutto, who became

prime minister for the second time last October after winning fresh general elections, has always denied the charges.

Mr. Ahsan said the cases had been prosecuted during the previous government of ex-Prime Minister Nawaz

Sharif at enormous public expense. Officials say the hearings have so far cost the government nearly 25 million rupees (\$83,000).

Earlier this month, the Pakistani Supreme Court cleared a former Bhutto law minister, Iftikhar Hussain Gilani, of disqualification from parliament after the government said it would not oppose his appeal.

He was convicted by a special court in 1991 of misusing official funds in the first accountability judgement against Ms. Bhutto's first gov-

ernment. A government counsel told

the supreme court all accountability charges filed against Ms. Bhutto's former government were politically moti-

Israel got \$6.37b in American aid in 1993, expected to receive same this year By a Jordan Times such as the Anti-

Staff Reporter

AMMAN - American taxpayers hore the weight of \$6.321 hillion in direct and indirect assistance to Israel in 1993 and will shoulder a similar amount during 1994. according to data compiled by the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs.

That would represent a per capita American subsidy of about \$1,300 for every Israeli, and \$1,650 for every Israeli Jew (considering that the nearly five million population of Israel include 800,000 Arabs). The figures mentioned in

the report reflected a much bigher total than officially announced by Congress and than any mentioned in the mainstream American press. which usually gives the annual U.S. aid figures to Israel as "in excess of \$3

Normally, the actual figures, as calculated hy the General Accounting Office (GAO), are not released for public information unless a specific request is made. Since the mid-1980s. American activists as well as Arab-American lobhying groups

Discrimination Committee have made it a point to seek specific figures from the GAO, the investigating arm of Congress. "Given the unwillingness

of anyone in the Clinton administration to admit how much went to Israel in 1993, it is understandable that the Israelis keep seeking assurances that this same astronomical sum will be made available to them again in 1994." Ella Bancroft wrote in the Washington Report on Middle East affairs. The report said that the

U.S. government gave \$1.8 billion in military aid and \$1.2 billion in economic assistance during 1994 in what could be categorised as direct aid.

But, it said, the administration and Congress allocated additional funds worth \$1.271 billion from the 1993 hudget or "off-hudget." The report added \$2 hillion

in loans secured by Israel as part of \$10 billion in credits guaranteed by the United States to the overall assistance. It noted that a \$437 million was reduced from the loan guarantees in line with a congressional stipulation that the U.S. would deduct from

for every dollar the Israeli government spends" on building settlements in the occupied territories. However, the \$437 million

reduction was more than made up for when Washing-ton extended \$500 million in "military aid for (Israeli) redeployment" from Gaza and Jericho in line with the Sept. 13 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord. The allocation was made in November, at a time when no

agreement had been reached between Israel and the PLO on an Israeli withdrawal pr how complete the redeployment would be or when it would take place, the report noted. In addition, Washington

extended uid to Israel through the following chan-

- \$700 million were allocated as "draw-down of U.S. weapons in Europe for transfer to Israel;

a "U.S. weapons stockpile" in the Jewish state; - \$180 million in fuel oil

and fuel tanks tu create a petroleum reserve in Israel.

on money borrowed for 1993

— \$3(X) million for creating

— \$50 million in interest paid by the U.S. government aid to Israel; and — \$80 million absorb refugees from Ethiopia and the. former Soviet Union

("which, incidentally, was the original rationale for the annual \$2 billion in loan guarantees to Israel." the report noted). These allocations as well as unspecified amounts allo-

cated as funding for the Arrow anti-ballistic missile, a short-range unmanned aerial vehicle and a night targeting system for Cobra helicopters were among the "many... items that were approved by Congress in a last-minute scramble by individual members to get credit with Israel's powerful U.S. lohby in an election year," said the re-

U.S. congressional committees have already earmarked \$1.2 hillion in economic assistance and \$1.8 billion in military assistance for Israel for 1994 despite an overall reduction of American foreign aid.

But "add-ons" and "additional" items that turn up in the budgets of various government departments could raise the 1994 U.S. aid to Israel to more than the 1993 level, the report said.

embassy. Soldiers were de-In addition to food and ployed around the compound. money, the kidnappers demanded that Pakistan reopen its The gunmen were demanding food for their war-ravaged horder to Afghan refugees. homeland and \$5 million. Pakistan, home to 1.5 million Afghan refugees. last The drama began on Sunday when the gunmen hijacked a month closed the border to new refugees after heavy fight-

Police storming ends

Pakistan hijack drama
ISLAMABAD (AP) — Com- hostages then went inside the

busined of schoolchildren from the northeastern city of Peshawar. 200 kilometres away and drove them to islamabad. Interior Minister Nasruallah Babaar was called on board and won the release of 55

voungest boys, some no older

than five. Eight boys were re-

leased earlier on Monday. The bus then drove to the nearby Afghan embassy. Shortly after it arrived, six women teachers were set free. The gunmen and the remaining

Iraq rejects Kuwaiti compensation for land

NICOSIA (AP) - Iraq on Monday refused to take \$285,000 that Kuwait decided to pay as compensation to Iraqis who lost property along the redrawn border with Iraq, the Iraqi News Agency reported.

The agency quoted an official source as saving 'Iraqi citizens who were forced to leave their lands and properties near the Kuwait-Iraq borders reject the compensation on these lands and properties.

The source was commenting on a statement issued Sunday by the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission, which putrols the frontiers, that the sum of 71.5 million traqi dinares (\$285_(XX)) will go into a special fund to compensate Iraqi prop-

He added: "Those citizens who were forced to leave their lands and properties informed the secretary general of the United Nations and president of the Security Council in letters sent to them in March and October last year of their refusal of the reparations.

The spokesman called the Kuwaiti offer "worthless." The new border demarcated more than a year ago hy a U.N. team moved 11 pil wells. some farmlands and an old naval hase at Umm Qasr to the Kuwaiti side.

Baghdad does not recognise the new houndary, but has agreed to evacuate hundreds of Iraqi families that ended up on the uther side. The UNIKOM statement

said the repatriation operation should be completed by the end of this month, hut did not say how many farmers were to According to the Kuwaiti

Foreign Ministry, about 1.000 fearmers are still growing tomatoes, cucumber and clover on 96 farms in Abdali, a town now on the Kuwaiti side. adjacent to Umm Qasr.

In December, the United Nations supervised the repatriation of 177 Iraqi families from Umm Qasr. Last year, the border area

was the scene of several confrontations between Iraqi and Kuwaiti soldiers and a march across the horder by hundred of Iraqis protesting Kuwaiti's construction of protective nyan leader Daniel Arap Moi

Sudanese rebels say government pushed back

NAIROBI (Agencies) Southern Sudanese rebels said on Monday that they had dislodged government troops from their positions on a key battlefront weeks after Khar-

toum launched an offensive. "Government troops have been pushed back with a lot of casualties." Justin Yac of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) told Reuters in

Aid organisations working in southern Sudan said that the sound of fighting could be heard in the area of Kit, south

of the government-held southern capital of Juba. over the weekend. There were also uncon-

firmed reports of bombing raids by government aircraft against rebel positions around Kit and the SPLA-held village of Arapi in the Eastern Equatori province on Friday and Saturday.

Mr. Yac said that aircraft had bombed rebels counterattacking against Khartoum soldiers around the village of Amadi in Western Equatoria and against Mundri village. which the SPLA retook after government forces briefly overran it last week.

Both warring sides in Sudan's civil war often lie about their military operations. Khartoum flatly denies it launched any kind of attack this month. Details are sketchy because aid workers have evacuated from much of the south.

Aid workers said government forces appeared to have been halted in their tracks after launching what Washington termed the higgest offensive hy Khartoum for years in the

Tens of thousands of civilians have fled from flashpoints U.S. ambassador to Khartoum Donald Petterson toured rebel areas last week and on Saturday he hlamed the uprouting of the civilians mainly on government attacks.

Aid workers said fighting between SPLA factions along trihal lines was a major reason for the growing chaos in the south, and that refugees had fled camps in Eastern Equatoria mainly because of attraks on them by renegade SPLA fight-

Hopes for a new African peace initiative were dashed last week when Sudan's military president. Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, scrupped talks with Ke-